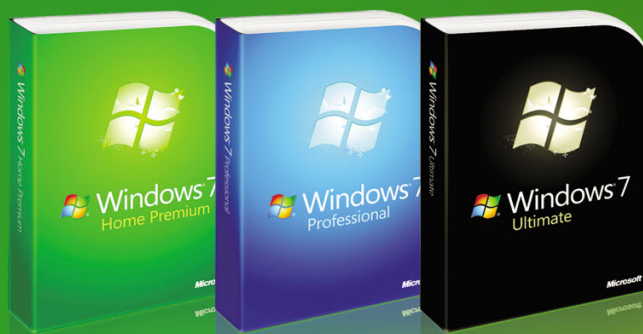


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PORTABLE DEVICES: pages 64 to 73

XM's SkyDock
Satellite
Radio p. 64



COMPUTERS: pages 44 to 63
Windows 7 p. 44

HOME THEATER: pages 7 to 22

Epson's MovieMate 60 p. 7



DIGITAL IMAGING: pages 23 to 43
Olympus' FE-4010 Digital
Camera p. 23



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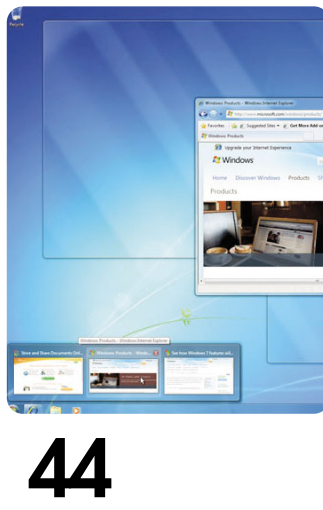
Table Of Contents • Volume 6 Issue 13



7



23



44



64

On Our Cover: Featured on this month's cover is Epson's MovieMate 60 (\$699.99; www.epson.com), Olympus' FE-4010 digital camera (\$149.99; www.getolympus.com), Microsoft's Windows 7 (prices vary; www.microsoft.com), and XM's SkyDock Satellite Radio (\$119.99; www.bestbuy.com/siriusxm).

GET DETAILS ON THE LATEST PRODUCT ARRIVALS



Epson MovieMate 60

See page 7



FLO TV Personal Television

See page 73



Fujifilm FinePix F72 EXR Digital Camera

See page 40



Microsoft LifeCam Cinema Web Cam

See page 50

Microsoft Office Home and Student 2007

See page 49

Microsoft Windows 7

See page 44

Microsoft Wireless Comfort Desktop 5000

See page 61



Mitsubishi 249 Series LCD HDTVs

See page 13



Mitsubishi 837 Home Theater TVs

See page 14

Nikon COOLPIX S70 Digital Camera

See page 42



Olympus FE-4010 Digital Camera

See page 23



Roxio Creator 2010

See page 52



SanDisk Extreme CompactFlash Memory Cards

See page 28



Sharp LE700 Series HDTVs

See page 21



SIRIUS Stiletto 2 Portable Satellite Radio

See page 72



XM SkyDock Satellite Radio

See page 64

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Hours
 Mon. - Fri: 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. (CST)
 Sat.: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. (CST)
 Online Customer Service & Subscription Center
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Authorization For Reprints:
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The Connected Home

Discover New Possibilities With Today's Technology

TODAY A WIDE VARIETY of digital devices and technologies work together to make all kinds of information available whenever and wherever you need it. Stream movies to your home theater; download photos from a relative overseas to a photo frame in your living room; or upload music from your MP3 player to your car. Whatever you want to do, there's a product out there to help you do it. Use this digital home blueprint to identify the types of things you want to do, and then go to the appropriate pages to learn about related products and technologies.

24 Pick The Right Camera

Share Perfectly Preserved Memories

74 Find Your Web Connection

Different Methods To Access The Internet

10 The Sound Of Entertainment

Piece Together The Best Home-Theater Audio

16 Build The Ultimate Home-Theater Experience

Bring Home Optimal Picture & Sound

Inside This Issue

Home Theater pages 7 to 22

Digital Imaging pages 23 to 43

Computers pages 44 to 63

Portable Devices pages 64 to 73


Gaming, Media & More pages 74 to 81

This Month's Lifestyle Close-up:


Holiday Buying Guide



66 Give The Gift Of Music
MP3 Players For All



65 Get Where You Need To Be
Find Your GPS Companion



46 Desktops vs. Laptops
Find Your Computing Fit



53 Top 10 Things To Know About Networking
Keep It Simple, Safe & Speedy

ce news

COMPILED BY ANDREW LEIBMAN

The New Destination For DJs

This holiday season, Best Buy will help you get the party started with Club Beats, an area within each store that's dedicated to everything you need to record, mix, spin, or perform music. Offering products from some of the best-known companies in the biz, such as Numark, Stanton, Monster, and JBL, Club Beats will feature games, headphones, DJ equipment, and more to meet a variety of turntable needs. So, whether you're a spinning vinyl pro who needs to piece together the ultimate setup or a novice who wants to competitively scratch popular tunes in a game of DJ Hero, you'll find the latest tools of the trade at Club Beats.



tidbits

A survey of mobile phone users found that 38% of respondents plan to seek out a finger-based touchscreen interface on their next device. But when those who currently use touchscreen phones were asked about their next devices, less than half (47%) said they would choose the same type of user interface on their next model.

Source: *Canalys*

A new Blu-ray update shows that Blu-ray Disc players are currently in around 11.7 million U.S. households, and sales of Blu-ray titles are up 83% this year. In the first three quarters, 3.3 million BD players have been sold, which is a 112% rise over last year. Also, the CEA is reporting that for the first time, Blu-ray made it into the top 10 most-wanted CE products for the holidays.

Source: *Digital Entertainment Group & CEA*

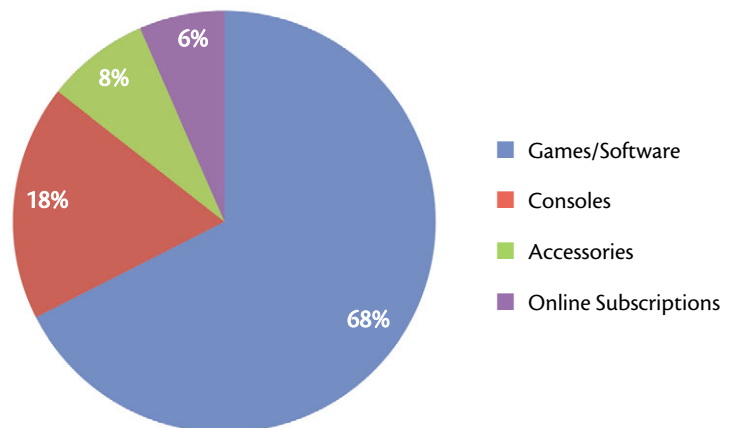
m a r k e t p l a c e

Gaming Revenue Breakdown

An IBISWorld industry report titled "Video Games In The US" shows that most of the gaming industry's revenue comes from games, rather than from the sales of console hardware. According to the report, game sales represent 67.6% of revenue, while console sales represent 18%. Accessories and on-line subscriptions account for 7.8% and 6.6% of gaming industry revenues, respectively. By the end of the year, new games for consoles and PCs as well as used games are expected to rake in about \$14.18 billion total.

Source: IBISWorld

Gaming Industry Revenues



FirstGlimpse



Epson MovieMate 60
\$699.99 • www.epson.com

EPSON'S MovieMate 60

Big Entertainment In A Small Package

Epson's MovieMate 60 (\$699; www.epson.com) is an all-in-one projector, DVD, and music player combo, but with so many capabilities, you might prefer to think of it as a portable family entertainment center.

Step Aside HDTVs

This 16:9 widescreen projector comes fortified with 3LCD imaging technology. With its 3-chip design, it delivers clear and vibrant imagery that's so true to life that you may not believe your eyes. And, with a screen resolution greater than DVDs, it's sure to impress the movie lovers in your family.

One advantage of a projector is its ability to mimic a TV of any size. Thanks to this model's 2,000-lumen E-TORL light source, the MovieMate is powerful enough to

create an image as big as a 155-inch HDTV. That's about 6 feet tall and 11 feet wide, making it possible to project video on nearly any wall or screen.

Portable Entertainment Possibilities

The Epson MovieMate 60 offers many exciting entertainment options for you

relative's house. Drop a movie disc in the built-in DVD player, and suddenly your guest room transforms into a home theater, with bright, vibrant images.

With plug-and-play inputs for iPods (with adapters), computers, video-game consoles, microphones, BD players, and more, the MovieMate 60 can wake up social gatherings, too.

... the MovieMate is powerful enough to create an image as big as a 155-inch HDTV.



and your family. If you're traveling for the holidays, the portable 9-pound MovieMate 60 includes a carry handle and padded case. Unlike a traditional flat-panel TV, this makes it easy to bring along for a movie night at a friend's or

Give new meaning to game nights with life-sized video games on your basement wall. Additionally, karaoke competitions, dance parties, and slide-shows (which can be created on the fly with the photos and music you have stored on a thumb drive) are all made easy with Epson's MovieMate 60. With the ability to project an image that's 14 times larger than a 40-inch flat-panel TV, as well as everything else the Epson MovieMate 60 has to offer, your entertainment possibilities are endless. **PC**

BIG HIGHLIGHTS

- Big-screen multimedia you can take with you
- 3LCD technology for improved detail and color
- Displays a 16:9 picture up to 155 inches in size
- Has HDMI, Component, Composite, VGA, USB, and microphone inputs
- Dual 10-watt speakers with Dolby Digital and DTS Digital Surround
- Integrated DVD drive supports audio CDs, DivX Ultra video, and MP3s and WMA music files

FirstGlimpse



Pick A Winning HDTV

What To Look For

BY MARTY SEMS

There are few things that epitomize “family entertainment” like a good HDTV. Contest-style TV shows hold more than one family member spellbound week after week. Video games have become friendly and casual enough to convince parents to compete against their kids. And now, HDTVs even act as digital photo frames and can also provide access to Internet sites and streaming movie rentals.

Let’s look at some smart ways to shop for a TV that will benefit everyone in your household.

Screen Technology

Does it really matter how an HDTV produces a pretty picture? Well, yes; in some respects, it does.

For example, if you want a picture that looks the same wherever you’re sitting,

start your HDTV search among the plasma models. The sports enthusiasts in your family may also love plasmas for their smooth rendering of fast-moving balls and race cars.

If you’re more interested in a TV that’s easy on your power bill, look to an LCD or, better still, an LED-backlit LCD. Also, a lower power-consumption rating (measured in watts) generally translates into a TV that won’t heat up the room as much.

Both types of LCDs are better-suited to bright rooms with lots of windows than plasmas. For the movie buff who prefers to watch in a dark room, however, a plasma or an LED-backlit LCD with local dimming technology will display the richest detail in dark parts of the picture.

Screen Size

Bigger HDTVs cost more than smaller ones, and they obviously take up more space. It’s up to you whether you prefer

a huge display that reminds you of the screen at your local cinema or a smaller set that doesn’t aesthetically dominate your room.

Of course, the dimensions of your entertainment center may behoove you to limit your new HDTV to a certain width or height. A very rough rule of thumb is to buy a TV with a diagonal screen size half as long as your viewing distance, but talk to an associate if you need help determining which size TV you should buy. Note that even a modest screen size can be entertaining if your seat isn’t far from the set.

Resolution

Your sports-loving spouse and film-critic teen agree: Resolution is important. An HDTV with 1080i resolution (1,920 horizontal x 1,080 vertical pixels with interlaced fields [half-frames] of odd and even lines of video shown sequentially) is perfectly adequate for

high-def cable, satellite, and digital broadcasts (including sports). However, a Full HD 1080p (progressively scanned, meaning displayed as whole frames of video) TV is backward-compatible with 1080i, and it can also make the most of BD (Blu-ray Disc) movies.

If you're buying a smaller HDTV, or you plan to sit within approximately 6 feet of the screen, be aware that a 720p model with a resolution of 1280 x 720 or 1366 x 768 should still offer more detail than any standard-def TV.

Video Quality

This is mostly a subjective criterion, although you can compare a few specifications to see how certain HDTVs technically stack up against one another. Higher contrast ratios, such as the 1,000,000:1 or better ratios found in LED-backlit LCDs, will tell you whether a TV will produce deeper levels of black when viewed in a dark room. (Plasma pixels can turn completely off, so the concept of contrast ratio doesn't really apply to them.)

You can also look at refresh rate, which describes how often per second a TV redraws its picture. A high refresh rate, such as 120Hz or more, means that an LCD TV may exhibit less flicker than a set with a 60Hz refresh rate. On a related point, LCDs' anti-judder technologies attempt to make movie objects move more smoothly on-screen without seeming to jump from one frame to the next.

Although it's like comparing apples and oranges to contrast plasmas with LCDs—they're very different display technologies—some manufacturers rate their plasmas with high refresh rates such as 600Hz. The takeaway is that plasmas can change their pixels much faster than can LCDs, so they don't need anti-judder features.

To visually test an HDTV's picture quality, feed it a BD movie over an HDMI cable connection. Watch the screen under lighting conditions similar to those found in your home, such as in an alcove in an electronics store. Try out the different picture modes and image processing features the TV offers, as some will undoubtedly offer more lifelike detail and color than others.

Make These HDTV Buying Decisions

- Decide on a screen technology and size.
- Make sure the picture looks good from anywhere you'll be sitting.
- Check out a set's connectivity options, including Internet or USB ports.
- If you plan to use the TV's speakers, listen to them carefully.
- Stay flexible on price for the best results in the long run.

Consider The Viewing Angle

When choosing an HDTV, you should look at viewing angle in regard to how you watch HDTV. Most models look great from a spot perpendicular to the center of the screen. Take a few steps to the side as though you're scrapbooking in the dining room or lie down on the floor as your kids like to do, and you'll find that many sets' pictures grow noticeably dimmer or change their colors slightly. LED-backlit LCDs and especially plasmas are typically better at maintaining a consistent off-axis image than regular LCDs, but the only way to be sure of a particular TV is to test it yourself.

Connectivity

This used to mean, "Does a TV have enough of the ports your A/V equipment uses?" Having enough A/V ports, such as HDMI 1.3, is still important, but today, you should also look into an HDTV's Internet connectivity features. Most Web-enabled TVs can connect to your home network router through an Ethernet cable, powerline adapter, or wireless adapter (all sold separately). Once online, they can access content such as movie- and video-streaming services, "widgets" that update you on weather or sports scores, and a Web browser for general surfing without a computer.

Also look for support for other connections, as they make a TV even more versatile. For example, many sets can play video files and slideshows of photos stored on USB devices and/or memory cards.

Audio Quality

If you don't plan on using an external sound system, listen closely to a TV's integrated speakers while a BD is playing. Is there enough bass? Is the dialogue clear? Note that some TVs have sound normalization features such as Dolby Volume that make sure the commercials aren't louder than the show itself.

Don't Be Penny Wise, Pound Foolish

One thing we don't recommend is sacrificing image quality, screen size, or a feature you want in order to stay within a strict budget. Think back to the amount of time your family used your previous TV. If you plan to spend a similar number of viewing hours in the future, you don't want your enjoyment to be diluted by an HDTV that isn't quite all that you were hoping for. **FG**



The Sound Of Entertainment

Piece Together The Best Home-Theater Audio

BY BLAINE FLAMIG

There are many experts who suggest bookmarking 30% of a home-theater budget for audio components. Considering that said equipment can deliver the live ambience of Super Bowl action equally as well as the sounds of an eerie otherworldly dimension in a sci-fi flick, this is sage advice.

Still, what's best audio-wise for one person can be impractical for another. Fortunately, home-theater audio components afford plenty of options for all types of owners. Keep the following in

mind when shopping for home-theater audio gear.

Educate Yourself

Before spending a penny, educate yourself on the components that make up a home-theater audio setup to know what your money is buying. A typical setup includes an A/V receiver that ties together your HDTV, BD (Blu-ray Disc) or DVD player, digital cable box, game console, and other electronics. Beyond decoding movie soundtracks, a receiver also channels audio to the speakers connected to it, helping produce a surround-sound effect in the proper configuration. A 5.1-channel configuration—one center

speaker to handle dialogue, two front and two rear speakers to handle effects and music, and one subwoofer to deliver bass—is the most common configuration, though 7.1 setups that add two more rear speakers are also available.

Define Your Needs

Buying new audio equipment typically means you're making a years-long commitment, so make your money count. If you live for movies, a surround-surround system is a must to get the full effect of, say, a cowboy speaking clear, strong dialogue during a cattle drive with a thunderstorm rumbling in the distance. If your tastes lean toward

music, investing in fewer but higher-quality stereo speakers may be money better spent. If you watch a lot of live sports, consider skimping on the subwoofer in favor of a better center speaker that can deliver the announcers' voices strong and clear and good surround speakers to produce the live crowd's buzz and intensity.

Mark Your Space

If your apartment's living room is also an entertainment center, work area, spare bedroom, and dining room, a 7.1 speaker system is overkill. Instead, a thin, one-piece soundbar that simulates surround sound may be more appropriate. Conversely, a larger home-theater space can discreetly work in a surround-sound system via in-ceiling, wireless, or bookshelf speakers. Elsewhere, for families who frequently host social gatherings or have divergent audio tastes, a whole-house audio system can wirelessly transmit audio to different rooms from a central audio source, such as the home-theater receiver. Some systems can also transmit audio to weather-resistant outdoor speakers and individually control audio sources from different rooms.

Know Your Limitations

The fact is that while a \$1,000 A/V receiver with multiple HD-centric inputs, outputs, and audio format support is fine for established married professionals with other top-drawer equipment to connect to it, it's probably not the best route for young newlyweds with more pressing needs. By clearly defining your budgetary limits, you'll automatically narrow the list of equipment within your reach. Once that's done, devote your cash to areas that best serve you. For example, the center speaker is a surround-sound system's workhorse, but the subwoofer puts the physical "oomph" in action.

So, if you watch more action flicks than romantic comedies, upgrading the subwoofer may get you a better return on your dollar.

DIY vs. HTB

A major consideration all home-theater audio system buyers face is whether to piece the components together individually or buy an HTB (home-theater-in-a-box) that has everything in one package, including possibly a BD or DVD player integrated in the receiver. Many HTBs also include color-coded cables to make setup a cinch, and because the components are coming from one manufacturer, they should interact seamlessly. Although piecing together a system requires more legwork, it offers more freedom and lets you emphasize certain areas over others. Depending on the components, handpicked systems often surpass comparable HTBs quality-wise, especially in the receiver and speaker areas.

Match The Speakers To The Setting

You can buy speakers individually or in complete sets. Buying individually usually nets better quality, lets you sink more funds into one area over another, and typically ensures you'll get compatible, interference-free performance. Additionally, installation is usually easier, and there's only one manufacturer to hold accountable if something goes wrong.

For large rooms in which hiding wires is a must, consider flat, inconspicuous in-wall and in-ceiling speakers; Bluetooth speakers; or 2.4GHz wireless speakers, some of which can operate about 165 feet from an audio source. For smaller rooms, bookshelf speakers typically have space-saving designs and can often perform on-par with larger, heavier

floor-standing speakers, which are generally best for large rooms. With subwoofers, strongly consider active models that plug into an electrical outlet and generally produce deeper, more accurate bass than passive models that draw power from the receiver.

Attention To Audio

When shopping for home-theater audio components, do the following:

- Get to know what the components do so you know what to expect performance-wise.
- Define your home-theater audio needs.
- Adapt the audio system to your home-theater space.
- Decide if individual components or an HTB is best for you.
- Match the speakers to your home-theater confines and tastes.

Above all else, the speakers you buy should please your ears, displaying no hissing, crackling, or distortion at normal listening volumes, and have the power to fill the theater space with distinct, muscular dialogue the subwoofer and surround speakers enhance rather than drown out.

Push Play

Whether your home theater is small or large and your needs are basic or extravagant, the divergence and adaptability that exist among home-theater audio components mean you can find just the right components for your situation. With proper research, needs assessment, and some comparison shopping, you'll also be certain to get your money's worth. **PG**

LT-46249 and LT-52249
\$2,599 and \$3,099
www.mitsubishi-tv.com



Package The Best In Audio, Video & Media

Mitsubishi's Diamond 249 Series Is Built To Impress

Home-theater surround sound will seemingly put you in the middle of the action of your favorite flicks, but not everyone has the extra room or cash to splurge on home-theater speakers. With that in mind, Mitsubishi created its brand-new Diamond 249 Series LCD TVs—the LT-46249 and LT-52249 (\$2,599 and \$3,099, respectively; www.mitsubishi-tv.com)—which produce surround-sound quality audio without extra components. In addition to producing great audio, these TVs can also expand your entertainment options thanks to its integrated Internet connectivity and VUDU HD.

Technologies That Will Transport You

For a home-theater experience that will take you beyond your living room, each 249 Series HDTV features an integrated 18-speaker sound bar that unites high-quality Dolby Digital 5.1-channel audio and Dual Driver Extended Range Sound with crisp, true-to-life video. Advanced image technologies such as Smooth 240 Film Motion will make fast-paced action scenes look fluid, and x.v.Color will

make your TV's hues appear realistic—the way 1080p video should be seen. These advanced technologies are only a sampling of what's packed into each UltraThin Frame, which measure less than 1-inch thick.

A Well-Connected HDTV

With over 2,200 HD titles and 16,000 standard-def titles total to choose from, the Diamond 249 Series' integrated VUDU will deliver the latest movies and TV shows from the Internet to your HDTV. Combined with 1080p HD video and surround-sound audio, your home theater is sure to become the hot spot

where friends and family will want to hold movie nights.

Getting set up with VUDU requires very little effort—simply connect the HDTV to your home network via an Ethernet cable or optional VUDU accessory bridge to gain access to VUDU's streaming content. Once you're connected to VUDU, you can use other Internet services such as Flickr, Pandora, Picasa, and YouTube as well as an "On Demand TV" menu that offers more than 80 channels.

Other available connections include a USB port for devices, such as digital cameras, camcorders, thumb drives, and more for viewing and sharing personal media in your home theater for all to see. And finally, four HDMI ports give you the flexibility to add HD-capable components that will deliver uncompromised audio and 1080p HD video.

The Best In Entertainment

When high-quality audio and picture come together on a single HDTV, the results are great. However, when you join an HDTV with these traits with a plethora of Internet entertainment options, you have an HDTV that will never fail to impress. **FC**

Diamond 249 Series Rundown

- 18-speaker setup reduces the need for speaker clutter and produces 5.1-channel surround sound
- Integrated VUDU HD puts thousands of HD and standard-definition movies and TV shows at your fingertips
- The 1080p video technology paired with x.v.Color provides a crisp, clear picture with true-to-life color

FirstGlimpse

LCD HDTV

Surround Sound Simplified



Mitsubishi 249 Series Unisen Immersive Sound LCD HDTV

MSRP: 46-inch model \$2,599
SKU: 9427211

MSRP: 52-inch model \$3,099
SKU: 9427284

www.mitsubishi-tv.com

Quick Overview

The Mitsubishi 249 Diamond Series of LCD TVs enhances viewers' lives while simultaneously simplifying them. Beyond lush 1080p video on a backlit screen with enhancements such as ISFccc Certified Video Calibration, Variable Smooth240 Film Motion, and Plush 1080p 5G 18-bit digital video processing, these Internet-ready TVs output superior 5.1-channel surround sound through a 16-speaker array built into an ultra-thin design.

Perfect For

Those who want concert-quality Dolby Digital 5.1-channel surround sound without the cost and clutter of separate audio components.

Outstanding Benefits

- Dolby Digital 5.1-channel surround sound via 16 2W speakers
- Dual Driver Extended Range Sound via two 10W speakers
- VUDU™ Integrated 1080p Video
- Variable Smooth240 Film Motion eliminates blurring in fast action
- New Plush 1080p 5G 18-bit digital video processing
- New ISFccc Certified Video Calibration and Advanced Video Calibration Mode, Sound Projector Calibration Microphone, Super Contrast Panel, and Jade activity-based user interface
- SharpEdge, DeepField Imager, PerfectColor, PerfectTint, 6-Color Processor

Coollest Feature

During configuration, a graphical user interface lets users enter precise room dimensions to calculate and set optimized audio specifically for the room, as well as adjust traits for each of the five surround channels.

MITSUBISHI'S

249 & 837 Series

Where Video, Audio & Quality Meet

Mitsubishi (www.mitsubishi.com) is spearheading the advanced development of the home-theater sensory experience with TVs that provide a superior picture along with impeccable sound. Both the Diamond 249 Immersive Sound TV Series and 837 Home Theater TV Series reveal the beauty of enhanced video color, but individually they have features that are tailored to meet certain lifestyle needs.



Mitsubishi Diamond 249 Immersive Sound TV

LT-46249	LT-52249
MSRP \$2,599*	MSRP \$3,099*
SKU: 9427211	SKU: 9427284

The Diamond 249 Series combines high-quality imagery, sound, and features to produce a one-of-a-kind viewing experience. With the built-in VUDU access, you can stream high-resolution movies and TV shows from the Internet on your set with immersive sound technology in full 1080p HD. Additionally, the 249 series supports USB thumb drive connectivity, so you can view photos and play music on your Mitsubishi LCD TV. For more details about the Diamond 249 Series LCD HDTVs, see page 13.



Mitsubishi 837 Series Home Theater TV

WD-65837	WD-73837	WD-82837
MSRP \$2,100*	MSRP \$2,999*	MSRP \$4,999*
SKU: 9330761	SKU: 9330841	SKU: 9331412

The Mitsubishi 837 Series delivers a larger-than-life screen that won't break your budget. Offering vivid and lifelike video, this series has an arsenal of advanced video features such as 3D Ready large screen technology, Dark Detailer, and PerfectTint being used to enhance what you see on a 1080p home-theater TV. Additionally, the Mitsubishi 837 Series TVs are energy-efficient, consuming less electricity than similar-sized flat-panel TVs.

FEATURES & BENEFITS

- 18-speaker, Integrated Sound Projector equipped with Dual Drive Extended Range Sound (no extra speakers are required for surround-sound audio quality)
- Variable Smooth240 Film Motion; new Plush 1080 5G 18-bit Digital Video Processing
- Internet Media ready for streaming online content directly to your TV
- Sound Projector Calibration Microphone
- The Jade Activity-Based User Interface makes it simple to navigate the 249 series
- Wide Color Gamut and New Super Contrast Panel
- Available in 46-inch and 52-inch models

Perfect For: Those who want an impressive flat-screen TV that combines impressive video with integrated Dolby Digital 5.1 surround-sound audio

- 3D Ready display technologies enhance everything from video games to movies to sporting events
- Home-Theater Control uses NetCommand with IR Learning to integrate A/V products such as VCRs, disc players, and satellite receivers
- 16:9 widescreen picture format with advanced video features that's ideal for viewing high-quality content such as HD or digital TV broadcasts, Blu-ray Discs, and graphic-intensive video games
- With the internal HDTV tuner, the 837 Home Theater TV can receive free over-the-air HD broadcasts
- Consumes half of the power of flat-panel TVs the same size
- The 837 series includes models with a 65-inch, 73-inch, and 82-inch screen size for maximum display capabilities

Perfect For: Anyone who wants a large, energy-efficient Home Theater TV with enhanced video technologies that won't come at a premium price

Cable Construction

Excellent Connections Required



ou've already spent a lot of money on your HDTV, receiver, and other HT components, so does it really make sense to shell out a premium for good cables?

Absolutely. All of your expensive hardware isn't worth the acres of packaging material it came in if you can't feed good audio and video signals to it, and the cables you use to do so can make a huge difference. A cable that doesn't have a quality construction will turn video into a muddy mess rife with snow and cause stuttering audio. In this article, we'll tell you what features to look for to ensure that your cables will give you the best audio and video output possible.

Shields Up

Ever notice how some cables are nice and thick while others are like strands of limp spaghetti? That's because the former have good shielding made of mesh, rubber, and other materials that help prevent interference from power lines and other electronic equipment. Several layers of shielding also keep the cable from kinking, or bending too much, which can break the strands of copper in the cable's core and cause signal loss.

Mind The Ends

The best cables in the world are worthless without good connectors at each end that seat firmly into audio and video ports instead of dangling loosely. The only way to be sure of the fit is to test them out with your equipment, but cables from reputable brands tend to have superior connectors than generic cables

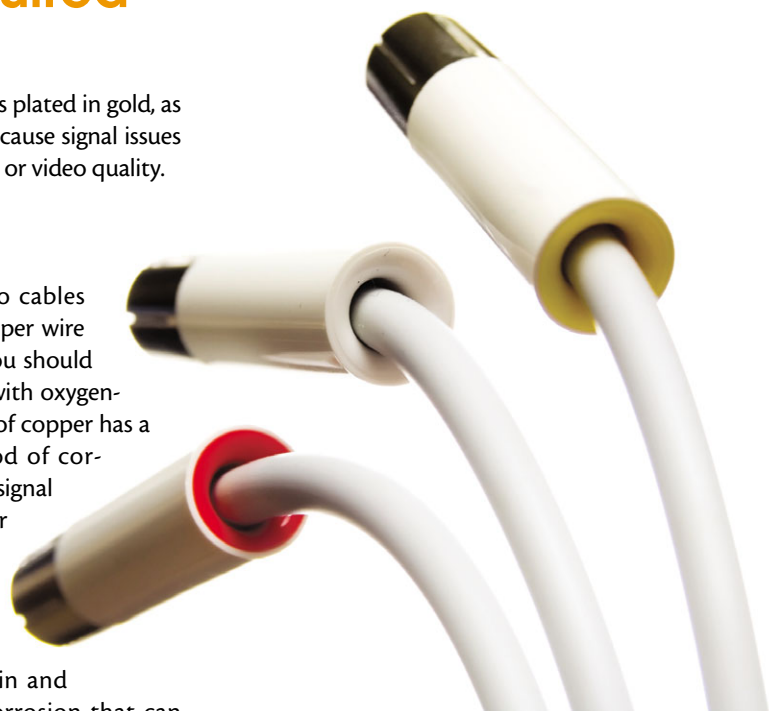
do. Look for connectors plated in gold, as it doesn't corrode and cause signal issues that can degrade audio or video quality.

Oxygen Is Bad

Most audio and video cables use cores made of copper wire to carry signals, and you should look for cables made with oxygen-free copper. This type of copper has a much lower likelihood of corroding and degrading signal quality than copper with oxygen in it. You should look for good shielding to help prevent outside oxygen from leaking in and causing premature corrosion that can lead to static in audio or video, or even drop the signal completely.

Exceptions

When considering optical audio cables, you'll find an exception to the rules listed above. These have glass or plastic cores and transmit a signal using pulses of light that stray radio frequencies can't interfere with, and therefore don't need the fancy thick shielding that cables with a metal core require. This also means they won't corrode internally.



The Long & Short Of It

When you're buying cables (optical audio cable excepted), be sure to pay attention to what length you'll need. If you need one that's longer than 6 feet, be sure to get a cable with as much shielding as you can afford and with excellent connectors that can withstand the extra weight. Then plug them in and enjoy the crystal-clear audio and video that good cables deliver. **FG**

BY TRACY BAKER

Cable Shopping Quick Tips

- Thick cables with several layers of shielding are best.
- Look for cables with tight-fitting gold-plated connectors.
- Oxygen-free copper boosts signal quality and lasts longer.
- Cables that run longer than 6 feet require high-quality shielding and connectors.

Build The Ultimate Home-Theater Experience

Bring Home Optimal Picture & Sound

You know what you want: the best home-theater video available. What you may not be so clear on is what you need in order to get it. Fulfill the four requirements below, and you'll have the Ultimate BD (Blu-ray Disc) Experience ready to connect to your surround-sound system.

HDMI Cable

- The best connection between a BD player and an HDTV or audio receiver
- Transmits video and audio in a single cable
- HDMI version 1.3 and later cables can handle advanced BD video and sound features
- Digital, so there's no loss of audio or video quality

1080p HDTV

- Full HD resolution (1,920 x 1,080) in a widescreen aspect ratio
- Matches BD video pixel-for-pixel
- Can upscale SD (standard-definition) video to fit the screen
- Internet connectivity for browsing, streaming movie rentals, and more
- USB and memory card support for video playback and photo slideshows



Blu-ray Disc Player

- Plays BD, the most advanced home video format available
- Wireless or wired network connectivity for BD-Live, streaming video, Internet radio, and more
- Also upconverts standard-definition DVDs

Blu-ray Disc Media

- Provides Full HD 1080p video for maximum clarity and color
- Six times the pixel count of DVD video
- Supports high-definition audio formats, including lossless and uncompressed ones
- BD-Live movie discs let you unlock exclusive bonus features online



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Essential

THINGS TO KNOW

HOME-THEATER CONNECTIONS

Q How do I decide which ports I'll need on my HDTV?

A You should make sure that every device in your home theater, such as an audio system, DVD player, Blu-ray Disc player, or gaming console, has the right connection available on the HDTV. You should also make sure there are enough ports to go around.

Q What are the different options for video cabling in a home-theater system?

A You can connect video devices via HDMI, Component video (three RCA cables), DVI, S-Video (a special yellow-tipped cable), Composite video (a single RCA cable), or coaxial cable.

Q What are the different options for audio cabling in a home-theater system?

A You can use HDMI, Optical, coaxial, or stereo analog (two RCA cables).

Q What is HDMI?

A This cable carries HD video and audio between devices over a single cable. It's the only cable that won't degrade the high-quality audio and video that's delivered to your TV.

Q What is the highest quality audio/video connection I can get for my home theater?

A HDMI is generally considered the highest quality for both. Further, as it carries both audio and video on a single cable, it's easy to keep your cabling to a minimum. Your next best option is DVI, followed by Component and then Composite.

Q Can I connect my computer to my home-theater system?

A Yes; computers generally include multiple channels of audio output, DVI outputs for video, and, depending on the motherboard or sound card, HDMI for both audio and video.

Q Can I use my HDTV to stream online content, such as video and audio?

A Yes, if you have the right components connected. Media extenders, set-top boxes, and even gaming consoles often have wireless Internet capabilities built in; therefore, you can connect these devices to your HDTV and access Internet content via a Wi-Fi connection.

Q Can I use my HDTV to access the content on my PC?

A Yes. If you have a streaming device, such as a media extender, you can use your home network to move the files that are stored on your computer, such as videos, music, and photos, to your home-theater system.

Q What else can I connect to my home-theater system?

A Essentially, you can connect any audio or video device that has the appropriate ports. For example, you can connect digital cameras and camcorders to your home-theater system to review your photos and video on your HDTV screen.

Q How do I know I'm buying a quality cable?

A You should look for thick shielding to prevent interference from other equipment and gold-plated connectors to ensure a high-quality connection.



HDTVs

Screen Technology Differences



LCD (liquid-crystal display)

LCDs can use one of two backlight technologies. CCFLs (cold cathode fluorescent lamps) are the most common, but LEDs are the latest backlight technology to hit the LCD scene. (See the “LED” section for more info on LED TVs.)

Pros

- The thin profiles and light weight of LCDs make them easy to mount on a wall.
- Power demands are a bit lower than comparably sized plasma displays and considerably lower than CRT televisions.

Cons

- Fast-moving images may suffer from a slight trailer effect, but with improved

LCD technology, the effect is barely perceptible.

- When pixels stick on or off, they show up as either a pinpoint of bright light or black, which can be distracting on-screen.
- From certain viewing angles, LCDs will lose video contrast and color.
- LCDs with CCFL backlighting suffer from leaking light, and unlike LEDs, they can't dim certain areas on-screen. This may result in blacks and whites that appear to be more gray in color.

Best For

- Streaming PC content
- Bright, sunny rooms

LED (light-emitting diode)

LED TVs are actually a type of LCD TV. These sets use one of two LED backlight technologies:

- Full-array lighting places LEDs behind the screen in a grid pattern, letting the TV dim certain LEDs for the best contrast ratios available.
- Edge-lit sets have LEDs placed around the frame of the TV, and light is directed toward the center of the screen. Edge-lit models cost less than full-array sets and are a lot thinner.

Pros

- By using LEDs, these sets use a lot less electricity than other HDTVs, and

they don't contain harmful mercury.

- Overall, LED TVs are one-third thinner than other LCD TVs and have longer life spans.
- Plasmas are well-known for their deep blacks and crisp whites and fast response times, but LED TVs closely match in performance.

Cons

- These sets are costly because they feature a relatively new technology.
- Blooming, or a halo effect, may encircle bright images that are on dark backgrounds.

Best For

- Eco-conscious viewers
- Fast-paced gaming

Plasma

Pros

- A plasma TV's phosphors light up evenly across the screen to create images, which are consistently bright and clear with vibrant colors.
- The contrast ratio is high, so you'll see some of the darkest blacks and brightest whites.

- The design and technology of plasma TVs lend themselves to large screen sizes—typically 50 inches or greater.
- Rapid pixel response means no blurry motion.
- Wide viewing angles give you the same high-quality images on-screen no matter where in the room you happen to be sitting.

Cons

- Some plasmas are susceptible to image burn-in if not cared for properly.
- Low air pressure and high altitudes may cause plasmas to buzz.
- Some plasmas have highly reflective glass, which isn't ideal in sunny settings.

Best For

- Large groups who watch TV together
- Movies or sports with nonstop action

RPTV (rear-projection TV)

Pros

- RPTVs are surprisingly lightweight for their sizes.
- You'll find exceptional picture quality on very big screens (65 inches and larger).

- As screens get bigger, RPTVs tend to be more cost-effective than an LCD, LED, or plasma TV.

Cons

- With depths of 16 to 24 inches, these TVs are far too big and bulky to mount on a wall.









- RPTVs require lamp replacements every few years.

Best For

- Anyone who wants to bring a cinematic experience home
- Big, roomy home theaters

Which LCD TV Is Best For You?

So you've decided to get an LCD TV. The next step is deciding *which* LCD TV to invest in. With all the models on today's market, you want to be sure the model you select is the best for you and your family. Refer to this chart for further help when shopping.

		Size	Dimensions; Weight***	Native resolution	Viewing angle	Inputs	Outputs	Refresh rate**
What It Means		The diagonal measurement of the TV's screen	Height x width x depth; how much the TV weighs	A fixed TV resolution; images are best displayed in the native resolution	The maximum angle at which the viewer can see the screen clearly	Inputs let you connect your components to your TV	Outputs transfer information from your TV to peripherals, such as audio to speakers	Speed at which a screen is redrawn every second
	Panasonic VIERA TC-L37X1 MSRP: \$799.95* SKU 9235124	37 inches	22.8x36.1x3.9 inches; 36 pounds (with stand)	720p	178 degrees	3 HDMI; 1 DVI; 1 S-Video; 1 Component; 2 Composite; 1 PC; 1 RF	1 audio	60Hz
	LG 42LH50 MSRP: \$1,699* SKU 9321637	42 inches	25.9x41.4x3.6 inches; 37.9 pounds	1080p	178 degrees	4 HDMI; 2 Component; 2 Composite; 1 RF; 1 USB; 1 LAN	1 audio	120Hz
	Samsung LN46B640 MSRP: \$1,899* SKU 9293506	46 inches	30.4x46.1x3.1 inches; 44.8 pounds	1080p	N/A	4 HDMI; 2 Component; 2 Composite; 2 USB; 1 PC	N/A	120Hz
	Sharp Aquos LC-52LE700UN MSRP: \$2,499.99* SKU 9514153	52 inches	30.1x48.7x3.7 inches; 50.7 pounds	1080p	176 degrees	4 HDMI; 1 S-Video; 2 HD Component; 2 Composite; 1 RS-232C; 1 PC	N/A	120Hz
	Sony Bravia KDL-55V5100 MSRP: \$2,599.99* SKU 9476373	55 inches	33.8x52.6x4.6 inches; 75.2 pounds	1080p	178 degrees	4 HDMI; 2 Component; 2 Composite; 1 S-Video; 1 USB; 1 RF; 1 PC	1 audio	120Hz
	Mitsubishi LT-46249 MSRP: \$2,799* SKU 9427211	46 inches	28x42x3 inches; 68.6 pounds	1080p	N/A	4 HDMI; 3 Composite; 3 Component; 1 RF	2 audio	120Hz
	Sony Bravia KDL-46XBR8 MSRP: \$3,699.99* SKU 8996508	46 inches	27x49.6x5.7 inches; 71.6 pounds	1080p	178 degrees	4 HDMI; 1 S-Video; 2 Component; 1 PC; 1 USB; 1 SD	1 audio	120Hz
	Sharp Aquos LC65E77UM MSRP: \$3,999.99* SKU 9554779	65 inches	37.6x60.75x4.7 inches; 99.2 pounds	1080p	176 degrees	4 HDMI; 1 S-Video; 2 HD Component; 1 Composite; 1 PC	N/A	120Hz

*Prices listed in this issue are for general reference and may vary from retailer pricing.

***Unless specified, this is without stand

** Comparing refresh rates between plasma and LCD TVs is like comparing apples to oranges. For more in-depth information about refresh rates, please ask a sales associate.

Which Plasma TV Is Best For You?

If you're planning on buying a plasma HDTV, it might be hard to decide on one just by looking at a wall of gorgeous sets. Refer to this chart for further help when shopping.

What It Means		Size	Dimensions; Weight***	Native resolution	Viewing angle	Inputs	Outputs	Refresh rate**
		The diagonal measurement of the TV's screen	Height x width x depth; How much the TV weighs	A fixed TV resolution; images are best displayed in the native resolution	The maximum angle at which the viewer can see the screen clearly	Inputs let you connect your components to your TV	Outputs transfer information from your TV to peripherals, such as audio to speakers	Speed at which a screen is redrawn every second
	Insignia NS-P42Q10A MSRP: \$599.99* SKU 9299822	42 inches	26x41.5x3 inches; 54.2 pounds	720p	160 degrees	2 HDMI; 1 Composite; 2 Component; 1 RF	2 audio	600Hz
	Samsung PN42B450 MSRP: \$799.99* SKU 9235259	42 inches	26x41.6x2.9 inches; 61.3 pounds	720p	N/A	3 HDMI; 1 Composite; 1 PC	N/A	600Hz
	Panasonic VIERA TC-P42X1 MSRP: \$899.95* SKU 9219213	42 inches	N/A	720p	N/A	3 HDMI; 1 S-Video; 2 Component; 2 Composite	1 audio	600Hz
	Panasonic VIERA TC-P50X1 MSRP: \$1,099.95* SKU 9219062	50 inches	32.125x48x4.13 inches; 75 pounds	720p	N/A	3 HDMI; 1 S-Video; 2 Component; 2 Composite	1 audio	600Hz
	Samsung PN50B450 MSRP: \$1,199.99* SKU 9239371	50 inches	29.5x48.1x2.9 inches; 77.2 pounds	720p	N/A	3 HDMI; 1 Composite; 1 PC	N/A	600Hz
	Insignia NS-P502Q-10A MSRP: \$1,199.99* SKU 9299886	50 inches	32x48.4x11.8 inches; 72.7 pounds	1080p	160 degrees	2 HDMI; 2 Component; 1 Composite; 1 RF	2 audio	600Hz
	Pioneer KURO PDP-6020FD MSRP: \$3,999* SKU 8867871	60 inches	34.5x57x3 inches; 112 pounds	1080p	N/A	4 HDMI; 1 Component; 3 Composite; 1 S-Video	2 audio	N/A
	Pioneer KURO PRO-151FD MSRP: \$6,500* SKU 8869174	60 inches	34.5x57.7x3.9 inches; 112 pounds	1080p	N/A	4 HDMI; 1 Component; 3 Composite; 1 S-Video	N/A	N/A

*Prices listed in this issue are for general reference and may vary from retailer pricing.

***Unless specified, this is without stand

**Comparing refresh rates between plasma and LCD TVs is like comparing apples to oranges. For more in-depth information about refresh rates, please ask a sales associate.

SHARP
AQUOS

LCD HDTV

Sharp's Super-Large 60" & 65" HDTVs



Sharp AQUOS LCD TV

MSRP: 60-inch model \$2,999
SKU: 9554804

MSRP: 65-inch model \$3,999
SKU: 9554779

www.sharppusa.com

Quick Overview

The 65" LC-65E77UM and 60" LC-60E77UN AQUOS models provide elegant large-screen Full HD 1080p 120Hz video solutions, just in time for all the big football games! Sharp's ASV Superluculent LCD panel enables high contrast, deep black levels and vivid colors while minimizing haze. Each TV includes four HDMI inputs and a PC input.

Perfect For

Large-screen TV buyers who are looking for alternatives to bulky rear-projection TVs.

Outstanding Benefits

- ASV Superluculent panel provides high brightness and accurate colors
- Sharp's Spectral Contrast Engine XD technology enables high contrast
- Fully featured with 4 HDMI, 2 component, 1 RS-232C and 1 PC input
- Full HD 1080p with 120Hz Fine Motion Enhanced for fine detail
- Elegant design with champagne gold color accent on the front cabinet
- Slim and surprisingly light, perfect for wall-mounting
- Large screen sizes and wide viewing angles for full-room convenience
- Built-in digital ATSC and QAM channel tuning system

Coollest Feature

OPC automatically adjusts the screen brightness to reproduce the best picture quality, reduce stress on the eyes, and conserve energy.

Available in Magnolia Home Theater and at BestBuy.com

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NOTEWORTHY

Accessories & Services

As you head toward the HDTV section of your local consumer electronics store, you'll invariably pass shelves of bland-looking HDTV accessories. There are a handful of accessories that are vital to getting the most from your HDTV. The following is a rundown of accessories we recommend to complete your home-theater setup. **RE**



WALL MOUNTS & BRACKETS

- Let you view your HDTV from the best possible angle
- Adjust your TV's position by tilting it up or down as needed
- Maximize space in your viewing room by hanging up your TV



CLEANING KIT

- Protects your HDTV's screen by using specially formulated sprays and cloths while cleaning it
- Eliminates the danger of scratching delicate screens
- No-drip formulas prevent damaging other home-theater equipment



UNIVERSAL REMOTE CONTROL

- Simplify your home-theater setup with one remote that can control all of your components
- Program different functions so that you will be able to, for example, watch a movie by pressing just one button
- Easily view options in the dark with a backlit LCD



SURROUND-SOUND SYSTEM

- Maximize your HDTV experience with theater-like audio
- Feel like you're in the movie scene instead of just watching it
- Even out softer and louder programming with an equalizer



CORD-CONCEALMENT KIT

- Hide multiple cords while keeping them organized
- Minimize cord clutter, especially with wall-mounted sets
- Keep the focus on your new HDTV, not the cords connected to it



TV STANDS

- Offer flexibility if you're unable to mount your HDTV on the wall
- Available in a variety of finishes to match any décor
- Provide a place for additional home-theater equipment



SURGE PROTECTORS/POWER CONDITIONERS

- Protect your home theater from potential damage by using a surge protector that will absorb electrical fluctuations
- Filter out "dirty power" (also known as electrical "noise" or radio interference) that can degrade your home theater's audio and video with a power conditioner
- Have peace of mind knowing that your home theater will give you its peak performance for the longest amount of time



HOME-THEATER SERVICES

A home theater is a pretty big investment, so it's wise to consider letting a professional handle your installation and setup. Let your local CE retailer tackle the following tasks, and you'll be able to enjoy the full glory of HD in no time.

- Home Theater In-Home Consultation
- TV Recycling
- TV Calibration
- TV Mounting & Cord Concealment
- Remote Control Programming
- Speaker Setup



HDMI CABLES

- Carry uncompressed digital audio and video signals to and from your HDTV and its components
- Shielding in higher-end models eliminates interference from other components

Olympus FE-4010
\$149.99
www.getolympus.com

Olympus FE-4010 Digital Camera

Stylishly Simple



DIGITAL IMAGING

With the holidays quickly approaching, it's time to start checking off the names on your gift list. You can surprise the photo-snapping fanatic on your list or treat yourself to Olympus' 12-megapixel FE-4010 (\$149.99; www.getolympus.com) digital camera. It includes many features that will help anyone easily capture memories during this special time of year.

Capture Everything

The FE-4010 features a wide-angle lens, (26mm) making it easy to fit every family member into a photo without anyone having to uncomfortably squeeze themselves into the frame. And with the FE-4010's Advanced Face Detection feature, you can lock on to 16 faces at once and catch every smile for the perfect family shot. Then, when the kids beg to see, you can share your photo immediately on the 2.7-inch, high-resolution LCD screen.

Shoot With Clarity

For shooting subjects that are across the room, the FE-4010 has a 4X optical zoom

lens that will let anyone get up close and document the kids' big smiles as they rip open their presents.

And while they run around playing with their new toys, capture the excitement in clear detail with the FE-4010's AF Tracking and TruePic III Image Processor, which will deliver true-to-life color. Even those with shaky hands can take a photo without blur and less noise thanks to the FE-4010's Digital Image Stabilization Plus. And to further ensure you get great snapshots, the Intelligent Auto + Shadow Adjustment Technology will document holiday activities

by automatically selecting the best shooting settings to match any environment. And for those who want a little more creative control over their camera's settings, the FE-4010 also features 21 preset shooting modes.

Have Fun With Your Photos

The FE-4010 can make photos look more dramatic and over-the-top with the Magic Filter. When taking a shot, you can add effects, such as Pop Art, Pinhole, or Fisheye, to create a unique image you can share and laugh about with the entire family. And when special occasions arrive that deserve a video recording, the FE-4010 isn't limited to only taking photos. It can capture all the action of holiday songs performed by the little ones as a VGA movie clip, which can be uploaded and shared with others on video-sharing sites such as YouTube.

The Gift Of Memories

Olympus' FE-4010 is an intelligent digital camera that packs useful features, such as a wide-angle lens (26mm), 2.7-inch LCD, and plenty of preset shooting modes, in an affordable package that can make a perfect holiday gift. **FG**

Top FE-4010 Features

- Capture the whole family in one shot with the FE-4010's 4X wide-angle optical zoom lens (26mm).
- Lock on to 16 people at once with the Advanced Face Detection feature and get the perfect group shot.
- Get sharp photo results with the FE-4010's AF Tracking feature, which automatically adjusts the camera's focus and brightness.
- Give your photos an artistic look and feel with Magic Filter.

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Pick The Right Camera

Share Perfectly Preserved Memories

BY NATHAN LAKE

From everyday events to special occasions, digital photographs are the way many people chronicle their lives. Thus, it's important that you purchase a digital camera that meets your needs in terms of quality, level of expertise, and size, so you won't miss any important moments. Here, we'll elaborate on the most important factors you'll need to consider when purchasing a digital camera.

Select A Type

Features vary from model to model, but generally, digital cameras fall into one of three categories: D-SLR, point-and-shoot, and prosumer.

D-SLRs. These cameras can use interchangeable lenses, making them ideal for photo enthusiasts who want complete control over their photos. There are a variety of lenses available that can change your shooting capabilities, such as a long-range telephoto lens to snap faraway subjects or a wide-angle lens to capture landscape shots. A D-SLR's lenses can be switched in seconds, making it easy to adapt the camera to photograph the scene exactly how you want to. D-SLRs are bigger than prosumer and point-and-shoot models, and the large camera body size is beneficial because D-SLRs can house large image sensors (which gather more light) and processors (that quickly process data)

to deliver the highest-quality images. The downside is that the bulky cameras aren't ideal for everyday use, especially if you want to keep two or three extra lenses with you.

Point-and-shoots. On the flip side, small point-and-shoot cameras can fit in a

pocket, making them ideal for those who want to take their camera everywhere. And unlike the myriad controls and features on a D-SLR, point-and-shoot cameras offer simple controls and settings, so anyone—no matter their level of photography experience—can use them. In some situations, such



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as in low light or when photographing quick action, point-and-shoot cameras may not produce as good of results as cameras with larger image sensors.

Prosumers. These models combine the size advantages of D-SLRs with the simplicity of point-and-shoot cameras. Although prosumers don't offer interchangeable lenses, they typically include a slew of manual controls, in addition to automatic modes, to give you some creative flexibility. Prosumers are perfect for amateur photographers who want high-quality images without the complexity of mastering a D-SLR.

Once you've picked a camera type, take a look at the specifications and features offered by each camera. Because some camera features may be more important to you than others, make sure the model you select matches your photography needs. Here's an overview of some of the most notable benefits offered by today's cameras.

Megapixels

Megapixel rating (indicated as MP) is a measure of the detail (not the quality) the camera can capture. A megapixel is composed of one million pixels, and the more pixels, the larger prints you can produce from your photos. A few years ago, the MP rating was a key factor, because if it was too low, you couldn't blow up prints beyond traditional print sizes, such as 4x6 or 5x7. But nowadays, nearly all cameras are 9MP or above, which would mean you can produce 8.5x11 prints without a problem.

Zoom

With point-and-shoot and prosumer cameras, you'll find specs for both optical and digital zoom capabilities. Optical zoom is the camera's ability to physically move the lens toward your

subject, while digital zoom enlarges a portion of an image you've shot. Compare only the optical zoom rating, as digital zoom reduces the quality of the image.

If you plan on regularly photographing sports, school recitals, or other events where your subject is far away, look for a camera with an optical zoom of 5X or more. With a D-SLR, the zoom depends on the type of lens you purchase, and some lenses have no zoom capabilities at all. If the ability to magnify a distant scene is a key factor for you, pairing a D-SLR with a telephoto lens is ideal.

Image Stabilization

There are several factors, such as low light, slow shutter speeds, or using an extreme zoom that can cause even the steadiest hand to capture blurry images. To combat this, many models include an image stabilization feature that senses and offsets unintentional camera movement. Like camera zoom, image stabilization is offered in both optical and digital flavors. Optical image stabilization relies on an internal tool that shifts the camera's image sensor to

adjust to movement, while digital image stabilization switches the camera's settings to better control motion blur.

Shooting Modes

Preset shooting modes, which are also called scene modes, can simplify the use of your digital camera by allowing you to quickly optimize the camera's settings to match different photography situations, such as landscape, close up, or portrait. Rather than making manual adjustments, you can quickly select the camera mode you want so you don't miss special moments, such as your child blowing out the candles or kicking the winning goal. The more scene modes a camera has, the more likely you'll be able to find a preset that matches the environment you're shooting in.

Face Detection

Great for people who love to take pictures of friends and family, cameras with face detection technology make sure your subjects appear sharp and properly lit by finding the shapes of faces and automatically adjusting the camera's focus and exposure level. Many new cameras also feature smile and blink detection, which determine when the subject is smiling or blinking, so you can take a picture at the right moment. Some models also display a message if you need to retake the photo because of a frowning face or blinking eyes.

Decision Time

Once you decide which type of camera you want and weigh the benefits of the particular features and specifications, you can start making the easy choices, such as picking camera color or case. And don't forget to budget in other accessories, such as memory cards, a tripod, or a digital photo frame to enjoy your photo creations. **FG**

Which Camera Type Is Best For Your Lifestyle?

- D-SLRs offer top-notch technology and the ability to use interchangeable lenses to let you capture the highest-quality photos.
- Point-and-shoot cameras are extremely portable and feature easy-to-use controls.
- Prosumer models combine the image processing technology of the D-SLR with the simplicity of point-and-shoot cameras.

Camcorders

How To Pare Down The Candidates

BY MARTY SEMS



Camcorder shopping doesn't have to be complicated. Simplify your quest according to the critical features listed below.

Video quality. It may take only moments to shoot some video of your teen's game-winning free throw, but your family may want to watch that clip again and again. In a case like this, image quality matters.

A camcorder's lens and image sensor have the most bearing on its picture fidelity. As an example, Canon makes its own high-quality lens for its VIXIA HF S10 (\$1,199.99; www.usa.canon.com). This high-definition camcorder also packs a big image sensor with 8.59 megapixels, which can gather more detail than a smaller imaging chip can.

Resolution. Camcorders today record video in either widescreen HD (such as Full HD with 1,920 x 1,080 pixels) or fullscreen SD (standard definition, such as 640 x 480 or 320 x 240). In many—but not all—cases, HD camcorder footage will look better than SD video. See the second page of this article for a comparison of who can benefit from an HD vs. an SD camcorder.

Most camcorders are also able to snap still photos. Because many cameras' image sensors have higher pixel counts than the video they output, they are able to take photos with higher resolutions. (A full HD camcorder is roughly 2MP.)

Optical zoom. The higher the power of a camcorder's optical zoom lens, such as

10X, the tighter you'll be able to zoom in on your daughter during her holiday dance recital without losing image clarity. Most camcorders use digital methods to simulate additional magnification, such as 100X, but digital zoom degrades the detail in the picture.

Canon's VIXIA HF21 (\$999.99) has a 15X optical zoom, which is a relatively high magnification level for an HD camcorder. An SD camera typically has even more optical zoom power, such as the 37X capability of the Canon FS20 (\$379.99).

Video transfer method. Instead of worrying about whether a camcorder records to flash memory, a hard drive, a miniDVD, or a miniDV tape, it's more practical to consider the way you'll have

to offload the video to a computer or other device. Virtually all camcorders can copy their video to a PC using a USB or FireWire connection, so you can edit it or save it to a disc.

However, if your camera uses a removable medium your PC can read, such as an SD memory card, it may be faster and more convenient to transfer the video that way. MiniDVD camcorders have an advantage here: You can pop out a recorded disc and pop it right into a DVD player or computer.

Note that just about any camcorder can play back its video directly to a TV when connected with a suitable cable. Some HDTVs even have slots for playback of certain kinds of video and photos stored on particular types of memory cards.

Recording capacity. Another thought about a camcorder's media: When you fill a removable device such as a tape, disc, or card, you can swap in a blank one and keep shooting.

If a camcorder only has a hard drive or permanent flash memory, be sure that it has enough recording capacity for your needs. When it's full, you'll only be able to keep shooting by recording over other footage you've shot.

Some camcorders have more than one recording medium. For instance, Canon's VIXIA HF21 has 64GB of internal memory, which is enough to capture up to eight hours and twenty minutes of 1080p HD recording. However, it also has an SDHC slot for indefinite additional shooting time.

Making A Choice

- Video quality is the most important factor
- Choose between HD and SD
- The more optical zoom power, the better your close-ups will look
- Make sure you understand and accept the way(s) to offload video from a particular camcorder
- For recording media flexibility, consider a model that offers internal memory and can also use memory cards
- Determine whether the camera is easy to handle and navigate
- Consider the features and extras each model has to offer

Ease of use. The easier it is to use a camcorder, the more likely you'll have it on hand when you need it. Models such as the Canon VIXIA HF21 are lighter and more compact because they use flash memory, so they feel more comfortable to carry for extended periods. Also, SD models tend to power on very quickly, so you'll

stand a better chance of capturing unexpected moments.

Other features. Image stabilization can reduce the shakiness of handheld video. Some cams have bigger LCDs than others, and some even let you flip the LCD around for the subject to see herself. If you're looking for a cam-

corder that isn't silver or black, check out models that come in other stylish colors, such as Canon's FS200 (\$299.99).

A nice software bundle also adds value to a camcorder. For instance, Canon's HD models come with computer programs that can capture, edit, transcode, and share your AVCHD video. **FG**

The HD/SD Decision

Should you buy a high-def or standard-def camcorder? Read on to see which of the following scenarios apply to you.

High-Definition Camcorders

- You own an HDTV, and perhaps a BD (Blu-ray Disc) player.
- You want to preserve memories with the best video quality available, and you don't mind investing more money in order to get it.
- You have a recent computer with enough processing power to edit HD video.
- You know that HD media will soon supplant DVDs and standard-def video.
- You're intrigued by the fact that your BD player can play AVCHD and/or AVCREC (high-def home video stored on inexpensive DVDs instead of BDs).

Standard-Definition Camcorders

- You don't want to pay a lot for a camcorder.
- You want to be able to turn on the camera and start shooting without delay.
- You want more optical zoom magnification than an HD camcorder provides.
- If you have an HDTV, but you're satisfied with watching SD content on it.
- You don't plan to upgrade from a DVD player to BD player anytime soon.
- You would like to be able to edit your video on a modest or older computer.

Canon's VIXIA HF21

\$999.99

www.usa.canon.com



Canon FS20

\$379.99

www.usa.canon.com



Prepared For Peak Performance

SanDisk's Extreme CompactFlash Cards Stand Above The Rest



Which SanDisk Extreme CompactFlash Card Do I Need?

Size Of RAW File*		10MB	14MB	18MB	24MB
Card Capacity	8GB	640	480	360	260
	16GB	1,280	960	720	520

*1 gigabyte (GB) = 1 billion bytes. Some capacity not available for data storage.

*Approximations: Results will vary based on file size, resolution, compression, bit rate, content, host device, preloaded files, and other factors.

See www.sandisk.com for more information.

Whether you're a seasoned photographer or just starting out with your first D-SLR camera, the new Extreme CompactFlash cards from SanDisk offer the professional speed and storage space needed to bring your ideas to life.

Read & Write Data Faster

SanDisk's Extreme CompactFlash cards set themselves apart from other memory cards because they have an ultra-quick read and write speed of 60MBps, making them perfect for saving or offloading HD video or continuous burst shots that have heavy storage space demands. And delivering professional performance, each Extreme CompactFlash card features SanDisk's Power Core controller, which can handle whatever your camera's buffer can dish out. This distributes and saves your D-SLR's image data across the memory card faster and more efficiently.

Save More Photos

For those who are serious about their photo results, shooting in the lossless RAW format will store complete image data that's generated by a D-SLR's image sensor on a memory card. Unlike the JPEG file format, RAW images contain more detailed image information and therefore require plenty more storage space. To address this large storage need, SanDisk's Extreme CompactFlash cards are available in 8GB and 16GB capacities. To find the card capacity that best fits your needs, determine how many RAW images you would like to shoot on one card and consult the

"Which SanDisk Extreme CompactFlash Card Do I Need?" chart.

Reliability Matters

SanDisk tested the Extreme CompactFlash cards under extreme temperature and sealed them with moisture- and humidity-resistant RTV silicone, so you'll know your camera data and images will return home safe if you encounter harsh conditions. Accidental drops and file deletion can also occur, so the Extreme CompactFlash cards are vibration-resistant and include a free year of RescuePRO Data recovery software use. **RE**

DIGITAL CAMERA

Features

Put Them To The Test

Even if a camera lists the specs you want, you won't really know what kind of pictures it can take until you play with its settings. Here are some tips on how to find a camera that delivers the performance you seek by testing its features in-store.

Enjoy Lifelike Images

Looking back on the pictures you took of your daughter's first birthday should make you feel as though you're reliving the moment, so you'll need to find a camera that can accurately reproduce colors and doesn't make your loved ones look washed out when you use the flash.

To find out if a particular camera model shoots images that look true-to-life, put it in auto mode and snap photos of objects that are near and far from where you're standing. The pictures you take should have vivid colors that don't have an unnatural blue or orange hue. To see a camera's flash results, perform the same test with the flash turned on.

The resulting images should show your subjects evenly lit, not overexposed or extremely white.

Shoot Clear Close-ups

A camera with an adequate optical zoom lens will let you get close to your subjects even if you're standing at a distance. This will let you capture clear shots of your kids playing in the snow, even when you're standing on your backyard deck. To try out a camera's optical zoom, point the lens toward an object that's distant from you, such as a sign, and zoom in to see if you can read the text. This will tell you how far you can be from your subjects and still capture close-up moments.

If you plan to take images that require plenty of zoom and want to get crisp close-ups, your camera should also have a good image stabilization feature. This helps prevent image blur by countering any movement you make while you hold the camera to frame a shot, and these accidental shakes can be more noticeable when you're trying to photograph from long distances.

Top Camera Features To Test

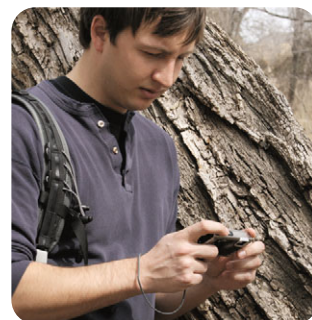
- **Color reproduction:** Take a few candid shots in the store to see if the camera reproduces true-to-life colors without adding an unnatural hue.
- **Flash:** A good flash will evenly light your subject without overexposing it.
- **Zoom:** Zoom in on a distant subject to make sure the camera can get as up close as you need.
- **Image stabilization:** A digital camera with adequate image stabilization should help you take sharp shots even if your hand shakes while you're taking a picture.

To determine how well a camera can handle unintentional movement, zoom in on an object that's across the room and take note of how the on-screen image moves as you try to frame your picture. Regardless of this movement, when you snap a shot, a good image stabilization feature will ensure that your final image result is sharp and in-focus, without blurring lines.

Choose The Right Camera

There are other features you can test while you're shopping for a digital camera, such as how quickly a face detection function locks onto your subjects' faces or whether the camera's menus and buttons are easy for you to navigate. You should also check the LCD to make sure it fits your needs. **FG**

BY KRIS GLASER BRAMBILA



CCD vs. CMOS

A Tale of Two Image Sensors



A

t the core of any digital camera or camcorder is its image sensor. The sensor captures the light entering the lens and starts it on its path to becoming a digital image.

But not all sensors operate the same way. Cameras and camcorders actually use two different types of image sensors: CCD (charge-coupled device) and CMOS (complementary metal oxide semiconductor). Let's look at the distinctions between these chips and whether these differences should influence your camcorder or camera decision.

Chips Ahoy

Although CCD and CMOS sensors perform the same function, they do it in different ways. The resulting strengths and shortcomings have traditionally geared each image sensor type toward different uses.

CCD. These chips are highly specialized components that are more expensive to manufacture and more difficult to incorporate into cameras. CCDs work by storing a photo exposure as an electrical charge and then relaying it to the edges

of the image sensor, where other chips take over the processing, such as transforming light and color values into a recognizable image, and applying any shooting presets. This multistage relay is a comparatively slow procedure.

This supporting processor circuitry takes up additional space, requiring a bigger camera body. It also consumes more

Although CCD and CMOS sensors perform the same function, they do it in different ways.

power; thus, your battery will need to be charged or replaced more often. But overall, CCD image sensors deliver better image quality and superior low-light performance, so they're generally used in midpriced and high-end cameras.

CMOS. These image sensors are mainly used in budget models and small-bodied cameras. Because CMOS is based on the memory chip technology already used in computer systems, it's cheaper to produce and easier to implement in cameras, cell phones, and other devices.

CMOS integrates the processing circuitry directly into the chip, so the sensors operate faster and use less power. However, with everything residing on the same chip,

THE CCD/CMOS

Breakdown

- CCD sensors trade larger camera size, slower speed, and higher cost for cleaner image quality.
- CMOS sensors sacrifice some quality and light sensitivity for low cost, smaller camera size, and faster operation.
- Manufacturing improvements have minimized the performance gaps between both sensor types.
- Regardless of whether a camera or camcorder has a CCD or a CMOS, the better criteria to check are the sensor size and megapixel count.

the tradeoff is lower light sensitivity and a greater tendency toward noise (graininess or color speckles) in your photos.

Does It Really Matter?

Although CCD and CMOS sensors have had longstanding strengths and weaknesses, manufacturers have continually refined them to the point that the practical distinctions between them are now fairly insignificant. In general, there's no reason to avoid one or the other.

Actually, the most important factors regarding an image sensor are its megapixel count and physical size. If a camera or camcorder has a high number of megapixels, say 10 or more, you'll want to make sure the device has a large image sensor. This is because the more pixels that are crammed into a given area, the less light-sensitive they are and the more noise-prone their output will be. Check out the camera's specifications or consult an associate to see how the image sensor compares.

In general, when two image sensors have an equivalent megapixel count, the larger sensor will probably give you the cleaner, clearer imagery. **PG**

BY BRIAN HODGE

Essential

THINGS TO KNOW

IN-CAMERA ENHANCEMENTS

Q Why do I need in-camera editing features?

A You can edit your photos right after you've shot them, rather than having to wait to use your computer.

Q Do all cameras offer in-camera features?

A No, not all cameras have these features. Look for a camera with the most important in-camera editing features to you to ensure your photos will always meet your expectations.

Q Can I crop images I shot using my camera?

A Yes. Most cameras with built-in photo-editing capabilities will let you crop your images, so you can center your subject or cut out distracting background objects.

Q Can I change the color of my shot after I snap a photo?

A Your photos can be changed to black and white, sepia, or other color hues using the color tone or filter settings. You can also make a single hue keep its color in a black-and-white image.

Q Can I brighten a dark photo after I take it?

A Yes. You can use the exposure settings in the retouching or editing menu to fine-tune the light in a photo.

Q How can I fix blemishes and other imperfections using my camera's editing features?

A Blemishes and skin color irregularities can be smoothed out using the portrait retouching or beauty fix settings.

Q Can my camera correct red-eye after I've taken a picture?

A You can remove red-eye by selecting Red-eye Fix, which is usually found under image retouching, beauty fix, or portrait fix. Some cameras require you to center boxes over the red-eye so the camera knows what to fix.

Q What is Slimming Mode?

A This lets you slightly elongate your photo in order to make the subject appear thinner and leaner.

Q How can I create a panoramic image?

A After you take multiple shots of a panoramic view on a horizontal plain, the camera can "stitch" them together to create one, seamless panoramic photo (a wide-view picture).

Q After I've edited a photo on my camera, will I still have the original?

A Most cameras will let you keep the unedited copy of your image by saving the edited photo as a new file.

Q What does it mean to tag a photo?

A Tagging a photo is similar to labeling it—you can put a location tag on a photo to remember where the picture was taken. You can also use the tags to organize them.

Q Can I show off my photos without having to scroll through each one?

A Some cameras will automatically arrange your photos in a slideshow format for playback. Depending on the camera's capabilities, you might be able to add music, as well.



Which Point-&-Shoot Camera Is Best For You?








If you're a little confused about the most important features in a digital camera, you're not alone. In this chart, we compare features from select digital cameras, and we also explain what these features mean.

		Resolution; Optical zoom	Shutter speed	Memory card	LCD size	Battery life	ISO	Movie mode
What It Means		More pixels mean bigger and clearer prints; Moves the lens closer to your subject	A faster shutter speed will let you snap action photos without blur	Removable card that stores your photos in your camera	The LCD is the screen on the back of the camera	Based on how many shots you can take on a single charge	A higher ISO lets you take better photos in low-light settings	Lets you record short video clips on your digital camera
	Pentax Optio E80 MSRP: \$129.95* SKU 9555849	10MP; 3X	1/4 to 1/2,000 seconds	SD/SDHC	2.7 inches	N/A	Auto; Manual: 100, 200, 400, 800, 1600, 3200, 6400	Yes
	Fujifilm FinePix Z37 MSRP: \$149.95* SKU 9464741	10MP; 3X	3 to 1/1,000 seconds	SD/SDHC	2.7 inches	N/A	Auto; Manual: 100, 200, 400, 800, 1600	Yes
	Olympus Stylus-7010 MSRP: \$199.99* SKU 9454226	12MP; 7X	1/4 to 1/2,000 seconds	xD-Picture Card/ microSD	2.7 inches	170 shots	Auto; Manual: 64, 100, 200, 400, 800, 1600	Yes
	Canon PowerShot SD780 IS MSRP: \$249.99* SKU 9230539	12.1MP; 3X	15 to 1/1,500 seconds	SD/SDHC/ MMC/ MMCplus	2.5 inches	210 shots	Auto; Manual: 80, 100, 200, 400, 800, 1600	Yes
	Fujifilm FinePix F72EXR MSRP: \$279.95* SKU 9503469	10MP; 10X	1/4 to 1/2,000 seconds	SD/SDHC	2.7 inches	N/A	Auto; Manual: 100, 200, 400, 800, 1600, 3200, 6400, 12800	Yes
	Nikon Coolpix S70 MSRP: \$349.95* SKU 9463662	12.1MP; 5X	1 to 1/1,500 seconds	SD/SDHC	3.5 inches	200 shots	Auto; Manual: 80, 100, 200, 400, 800, 1600, 3200, 6400	Yes
	Samsung DualView TL225 MSRP: \$349.99* SKU 9501791	12.2MP; 4.6X	1 to 1/2,000 seconds	microSD/ micro-SDHC	3.5 inches; 1.5 inches front LCD	N/A	Auto; Manual: 80, 100, 200, 400, 800, 1600, 3200	Yes
	Canon PowerShot SX20 IS MSRP: \$399.99* SKU 9455127	12.1MP; 20X	15 to 1/3,200 seconds	SD/SDHC/ MMC/ MMCplus	2.5 inches	340 shots	Auto; Manual: 80, 100, 200, 400, 800, 1600	Yes

*Prices listed in this issue are for general reference and may vary from retailer pricing.

Which D-SLR Is Best For You?









As D-SLR prices keep coming down, more photographers are turning to them, both as a first camera and as a trade-up to something better. In this chart, we'll help you sort through some of the features and performance specs from select D-SLR cameras.

		Resolution	LCD size	ISO range	Kit lens	Burst speed	Shutter speed
What It Means		Image sensor in megapixels; more means a bigger image	Diagonal measure of screen on back of camera	A higher ISO range will let you take better photos in low-light situations	Standard lens bundled with the camera body	Frames per second (fps) you can shoot while in burst mode	The wider the range, the greater the gamut of long exposures to frozen action
	Nikon D3000 MSRP: \$599.99* SKU 9456803	10.2MP	3 inches	100 to 1600	18-55mm f/3.5-5.6G VR lens	3fps	30 to 1/4,000 seconds
	Sony Alpha A330L MSRP: \$599.99* SKU 9342142	10.2MP	2.7 inches	100 to 3200	SAL-1855 DT 18-55mm f/3.5-5.6 lens	2.5fps to card capacity	30 to 1/4,000 seconds
	Pentax K-X MSRP: \$749.95* SKU 9555661	12.4MP	2.7 inches	200 to 6400	18-55mm, 55-200 mm lenses	N/A	30 to 1/6,000 seconds
	Nikon D5000 MSRP: \$799.95* SKU 9311755	12.3MP	2.7 inches	200 to 3200	18-55mm f/3.5-5.6G VR lens	4fps	30 to 1/4,000 seconds
	Olympus EP-1 MSRP: \$799.99* SKU 9463573	12.3MP	3 inches	100 to 6400	14-42mm f/3.5-5.6 lens	3fps	60 to 1/4,000 seconds
	Canon EOS Rebel T1i MSRP: \$849.99* SKU 9318954	15.1MP	3 inches	100 to 3200	EF-S 18-55mm f/3.5-5.6 IS lens	3.4fps	30 to 1/4,000 seconds
	Panasonic Lumix L10K MSRP: \$1,299.95* SKU 8815464	10.1MP	2.5 inches	100 to 6400	N/A	3fps to card capacity	60 to 1/4,000 seconds
	Canon EOS 7D MSRP: \$1,699.99* SKU 9491944	18MP	3 inches	100 to 6400	N/A (body only)	N/A	1/60 to 1/8,000 second

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Which Digital Camcorder Is Best For You?

Digital camcorders come in a number of formats: DVD, hard drive, flash drive, MiniDV, and high definition are the most common. By comparing the following digital camcorders, you can determine which recording format and product best fit your style.

		LCD size	Optical zoom; Digital zoom	Recording speeds	Memory card	Digital still resolution	Lines of resolution
What It Means		Diagonal length of viewing screen	Two methods for magnifying depth of field; optical zoom is better	The speeds a particular cam- corder can uti- lize during recording	Compatible flash card types (cards not in- cluded unless noted)	The number of megapixels the camcorder can capture in still images	Number of lines of horizontal reso- lution; the higher the number, the greater the detail
Flash Drive	 Samsung SMX-F34BN MSRP: \$279.99* SKU 9267189	2.7 inches	34X; 1,200X	SP	SD/SDHC/ MMC	N/A	480
	 Canon FS200 MSRP: \$329.99* SKU 9244203	2.7 inches	37X; 2,000X	XP/SP/LP	SDHC	N/A	480
	 Samsung HMX-H104 MSRP: \$579.99* SKU 9369765	2.7 inches	10X; 100X	N/A	SDHC	N/A	1,080
	 Canon VIXIA HF20 MSRP: \$799.99* SKU 9239512	2.7 inches	15X; 300X	MXP/FXP/ XP+/SP/LP	SDHC	3.3MP	1,080
	 JVC Everio GZ-HM400 MSRP: \$999.95* SKU 9510291	2.8 inches	10X; 200X	UXP/XP/SP/ EP	SD/SDHC	9MP	1,080
	 Sony HDR-CX500V MSRP: \$1,099.99* SKU 9403497	3 inches	12X; 150X	FH/HQ/SP/ LP	Memory Stick PRO Duo	12MP	1,080
Hard Drive	 Panasonic HDC-HS250 MSRP: \$899.95* SKU 9206995	2.7 inches	12X; 700X	HA/HG/HX/ HE	SD/SDHC	10.6MP	1,080
	 Sony DCR-SR47 MSRP: \$349.99* SKU 9178258	2.7 inches	60X; 2,000X	HQ/SP/LP	Memory Stick PRO Duo	0.3MP	480

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Digital Imaging Glossary



Are you confused about what the lingo on camera boxes means? Use this glossary to help decode the world of digital imaging.

aperture—An iris-like diaphragm opening that can expand and contract the lens to let you control the amount of light that passes through it, thus affecting the exposure. The term “f-stop” is used interchangeably with aperture.

burst mode—A camera mode that lets you capture several shots consecutively after pressing the shutter only once.

CCD (charge-coupled device)—The camera’s image-sensing component. It converts light into energy that can be stored as digital data on your camera.

depth of field—The area that is in focus in front of and beyond the subject of your photo.

digital zoom—Magnifies an image digitally by cropping it and filling in the rest with interpolated pixels, thus degrading the quality. Even if the numbers are impressive, never choose a camera based on digital zoom.

f-stop—See aperture. Smaller f-stop numbers mean a wider lens opening; larger f-stop numbers mean a narrower lens opening.

ISO—For digital cameras, the ISO setting measures the sensitivity to light (similar to how it does with film). Digital camera ISO settings, such as 200,

400, and up, should capture photos as if one were using film with such a speed. Lower ISO settings mean you need more light and vice versa.

LCD (liquid-crystal display)—The screen on the back of the camera that lets you see a live-action view of your subject or your photo after you’ve taken it.

lens—The apparatus on the front of the camera that gathers and directs light toward the imaging device. In a digital camera, the lens probably has both an optical and digital zoom.

megapixel—Approximately 1 million pixels. The higher the megapixel count, the higher the resolution and the more you can crop, which means (in general) better-quality photos.

memory card—Because digital cameras have very little onboard memory, they need flash memory cards to store more than a dozen or so images. The type of memory card you need depends on the make and model of your camera. Some of the most popular memory cards are Secure Digital, MultiMedia Card, Compact Flash, and Sony Memory Stick. In general, memory cards are quite small.

noise—The small statistical variations among pixels that lead to (usually) minor distortions of color in a photo.

optical zoom—The camera’s mechanical ability to move the lens physically closer to your subject. With optical zoom, the higher the number (such as 5X or 10X), the better. When choosing a camera, always consider the optical



DIGITAL IMAGING

zoom, not the digital zoom. Digital zoom artificially adds pixels.

resolution—The number of pixels in an image. The higher the resolution, the more detail and quality in a photo. Resolution is measured in a proportion (such as 2,272 x 1,704).

shutter—A mechanism that opens and closes to allow light to pass through the lens. You can usually control the camera’s shutter speed.

shutter speed—The length of time a camera’s shutter is open to let light through the lens to hit the sensor, which records the image. This is expressed in fractions of a second: For instance, a shutter speed of 1/250 means that the shutter is open for 1/250th of a second.




viewfinder—The small opening in the camera that the user looks through to frame a shot. Some digital cameras don’t have a viewfinder and use only the camera’s LCD to frame the shot.

white balance—Light levels are adjusted electronically to ensure whites in a certain environment are pure, leading to more lifelike colors. White balance can usually be manually adjusted, too.

Eye-Fi's Digital Imaging Wireless Cards



Eye-Fi offers three different wireless memory card choices. To find the Eye-Fi card that fits your needs, here's a side-by-side comparison of your options.

Product Name SKU	Share 9520912	Share Video 9251418	Explore Video 9251418
			
MSRP	\$59.99*	\$79.99*	\$99.99*
Card capacity and type	2GB SD	4GB SDHC	4GB SDHC
Capabilities	Transfer JPG photo files from your camera	Transfer JPG photo and video files from your camera	Transfer JPG photo and video files from your camera at or away from home; also includes automatic geotagging
Send files from your camera to	Your home computer and favorite online photo-sharing Web sites	Your home computer and favorite online photo- and video-sharing Web sites	Your home computer and favorite online photo- and video-sharing Web sites
One-year unlimited uploads from Wayport hotspots	No	No	Yes
Wireless range	45 feet indoors, 90 feet outdoors	45 feet indoors, 90 feet outdoors	45 feet indoors, 90 feet outdoors
Wi-Fi security	Static WEP 64/128, WPA-PSK, and WPA2-PSK	Static WEP 64/128, WPA-PSK, and WPA2-PSK	Static WEP 64/128, WPA-PSK, and WPA2-PSK
Supported OSes	Windows XP/Vista/7 and Mac OSes (versions 10.4 and 10.5)	Windows XP/Vista/7 and Mac OSes (versions 10.4 and 10.5)	Windows XP/Vista/7 and Mac OSes (versions 10.4 and 10.5)

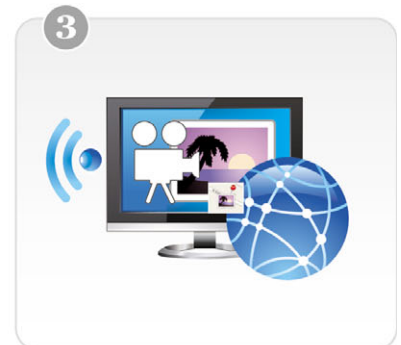
* Prices listed in this issue are for general reference and may vary from retailer pricing.



Insert Eye-Fi card into camera and take photos and video



Wirelessly and effortlessly upload photos and videos from home or many hotspots











Save and share all your geotagged digital memories

Find The Nikon COOLPIX That Fits Your Life



At the heart of the image™

Nikon's COOLPIX cameras won't let you miss the joy in life, thanks to their fast start-up time, shutter speed, and auto focus. Each COOLPIX offers an ultra-compact and stylish design that will deliver sharp and colorful photo results with its NIKKOR lens. With a wide range of Nikon COOLPIX cameras available, it couldn't be easier to find a camera that can keep up with your photography needs.

Product Name SKU	Nikon COOLPIX L20 9220167	Nikon COOLPIX S220 9220185	Nikon COOLPIX S570 9455369	Nikon COOLPIX S230 9220201	Nikon COOLPIX L100 9220229	Nikon COOLPIX S630 9223734	Nikon COOLPIX S70 9455412	Nikon COOLPIX P90 9223743
Additional Colors Available		 9224519 9224494 9224528	 9463699 9464616 9464661	 9225224 9225215 9225233		 9225279 9225242 9225251	 9463662	
MSRP	\$119.95*	\$149.95*	\$199.95*	\$179.95*	\$229.95*	\$249.95*	\$349.95*	\$399.95*
Resolution	10MP	10MP	12MP	10MP	10MP	12MP	12MP	12.1MP
Zoom	3.6X optical; 4X digital	3X optical; 4X digital	5X optical; 4X digital	3X optical; 4X digital	15X optical; 4X digital	7X optical; 4X digital	5X optical; 4X digital	24X optical; 4X digital
LCD Monitor	3 inches	2.5 inches	2.7 inches	3 inches	3 inches	2.7 inches	3.5-inch OLED	3-inch tilt and swivel LCD
Internal Memory & Compatible Cards	20MB internal & SD/SDHC	44MB internal & SD/SDHC	47MB internal & SD/SDHC	44MB internal & SD/SDHC	44MB internal & SD/SDHC	44MB internal & SD/SDHC	20MB internal & SD/SDHC	47MB internal & SD/SDHC
ISO	Up to 1600	Up to 2000	Up to 3200	Up to 2000	Up to 3200	Up to 6400	Up to 6400	Up to 6400
Shooting Modes	6 Scene Auto Selector Modes, 16 Scene Modes, plus Auto	6 Scene Auto Selector Modes, 16 Scene Modes, plus Auto	6 Scene Auto Selector Modes, 16 Scene Modes, plus Auto	6 Scene Auto Selector Modes, 17 Scene Modes, plus Auto	6 Scene Auto Selector Modes, 16 Scene Modes, plus Auto	6 Scene Auto Selector Modes, 16 Scene Modes, plus Auto	6 Scene Auto Selector Modes, 17 Scene Modes, plus Auto	16 Scene Modes, Programmed Auto, Shutter- Priority Auto, Aperture- priority Auto, and Manual
Movie Mode	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes (HD)	Yes
Touch-Panel Control	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
Battery Type	2 AA batteries	Li-Ion recharge- able battery	Li-Ion recharge- able battery	Li-Ion recharge- able battery	4 AA batteries	Li-Ion recharge- able battery	Li-Ion recharge- able battery	Li-Ion recharge- able battery
Battery Life	240 shots with alkaline, 630 shots lithium- ion	180 shots	220 shots	160 shots	350 shots with alkaline, 900 shots lithium- ion	220 shots	200 shots	200 shots

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FirstGlimpse

Expand Your Creativity With A Nikon D-SLR



As you step up to a D-SLR from a point-and-shoot, new opportunities for expanding the creativity in your photos accompanies higher image quality and faster shutter response. Nikon's D-SLRs are easy to use, with a host of features to help you achieve outstanding images, including in-camera editing. Whether you're new to D-SLR picture-taking or ready to upgrade your current D-SLR, Nikon has a camera to exceed expectations.

Product Name SKU	Nikon D3000 Kit 9456803	Nikon D5000 Kit 9311755	Nikon D90 Kit 8975184	Nikon D300S Body 9457349	Nikon D700 Body 8928985
					
Estimated Street Price	\$549.95*	\$749.95*	\$1,199.95*	\$1,699.95*	\$2,699.95*
Compatible Lenses (for all functions)†	AF-S or AF-I lenses	AF-S or AF-I lenses	AF NIKKOR lenses (AF-I, AF-S, DX, VR, and D-/G)	AF NIKKOR lenses (AF-I, AF-S, DX, VR, and D-/G)	AF NIKKOR lenses (AF-I, AF-S, DX, VR, and D-/G)
Included Lenses	18-55mm NIKKOR VR Image Stabilization Lens	18-55mm NIKKOR VR Image Stabilization Lens	18-105mm NIKKOR VR Image Stabilization Lens	Available separately	Available separately
LCD Monitor	3 inches 230K-dot Resolution	2.7 inches Vari-angle 230K-dot Resolution	3 inches 921K-dot Resolution	3 inches 921K-dot Resolution	3 inches 921K-dot Resolution
Resolution	10.2MP	12.3MP	12.3MP	12.3MP	12.1MP
Sensor Type	DX-format CCD	DX-format CMOS	DX-format CMOS	DX-format CMOS	FX-format CMOS
Low-Noise ISO Sensitivity	100 to 1600 (expanded 3200)	200 to 3200 (expanded 100 and 6400)	200 to 3200 (expanded 100 and 6400)	200 to 3200 (expanded 100 and 6400)	200 to 6400 (expanded 100, 12800, and 25600)
Shutter Speed	30 to 1/4,000 seconds	30 to 1/4,000 seconds	30 to 1/4,000 seconds	30 to 1/8,000 seconds	30 to 1/8,000 seconds
Built-in Flash	Yes (automatic or user-activated)	Yes (automatic or user-activated)	Yes (automatic or user-activated)	Yes (user-activated)	Yes (user-activated)
Burst Mode	Up to 3fps	Up to 4fps	Up to 4.5fps	Up to 7fps	Up to 5fps
Picture Control Settings	Standard, Neutral, Vivid, Monochrome Portrait, and Landscape	Nine customizable plus Standard, Portrait, Landscape	Nine customizable plus Standard, Portrait, Landscape, and more	Nine customizable plus Standard, Neutral, Vivid, Monochrome, and more	Nine customizable plus Standard, Neutral, Vivid, Monochrome, and more
In-Camera Editing Features	13 Functions, including: Trim, Red-eye correction, Soft Filter, and more	16 Functions, including: Trim, D-Lighting, Red-eye correction, Image Overlay, and more	13 Functions, including: Trim, D-Lighting, Image Overlay, Monochrome, and more	10 Functions, including: Trim, Monochrome, D-Lighting, Filter Effects, Edit Movie, and more	7 Functions, including: Trim, D-Lighting, Image Overlay, Filter Effects, Monochrome, and more
HD Movie Mode	(Stop-Motion Movie Mode only)	Yes with Sound	Yes with Sound	Yes with Sound and Stereo Mic Input	No
Compatible Storage Media	SD, SDHC	SD, SDHC	SD, SDHC	CompactFlash Type I/II; SD and SDHC	CompactFlash Type I
Included Battery	EN-EL9a Lithium-ion Rechargeable Battery	EN-EL9a Lithium-ion Rechargeable Battery	EN-EL3e Lithium-ion Rechargeable Battery	EN-EL3e Lithium-ion Rechargeable Battery	EN-EL3e Lithium-ion Rechargeable Battery
Battery Life (shots per charge)	500 (CIPA)	510 (CIPA)	850 (CIPA)	950 (CIPA); 3,000 (Nikon Standard)	1,000 (CIPA)









* Prices listed in this issue are for general reference and may vary from retailer pricing.

† For complete compatibility see www.nikonusa.com.

Select Your Sony® Cyber-shot® Digital Camera

SONY

Sony's (www.sony.com) line of Cyber-shot digital cameras is sure to include a model that can meet your needs, whether you're a beginning photographer looking for a point-and-shoot loaded with features or an experienced camera user wanting a D-SLR. **And if you want outstanding shots from a point-and-shoot camera, even in low-light settings, look at the DSC-TX1/H and DSC-HX1, which include Sony's powerful Exmor™ R and Exmor™ sensors, respectively.**

Product Name SKU	Sony Cyber-shot DSC-W180/B 9395932	Sony Cyber-shot DSC-W220 9251953	Sony Cyber-shot DSC-W230 9256645	Sony Cyber-shot DSC-W290 9250892	Sony Cyber-shot DSC-T90 9267018	Sony Cyber-shot DSC-H20/B 9267045	Sony Cyber-shot DSC-TX1/H 9427934	Sony Cyber-shot DSC-HX1 9327105
								
MSRP	\$129.99*	\$179.99*	\$209.99*	\$229.99*	\$279.99*	\$279.99*	\$379.99*	\$499.99*
Megapixels	10.1	12.1	12.1	12.1	12.1	10.1	10.2	9.1
LCD Screen Size	2.7 inches	2.7 inches	3 inches	3 inches	3 inches	3 inches	3 inches	3 inches
Lens Focal Length	35mm equivalent 35-105mm	35mm equivalent 30-120mm	35mm equivalent 5.5-21.4mm	25mm equivalent 28-140mm	35mm equivalent 35-140mm	35mm equivalent 38-380mm	35mm equivalent 35-150mm	35mm equivalent 28-560mm
Zoom	3X optical; 6X digital	4X optical; 8X digital	4X optical; 8X digital	5X optical; 10X digital	4X optical; 8X digital	10X optical; 40X digital	4X optical; 8X digital	20X optical; 40X digital
Burst Mode	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Internal Memory	12MB	15MB	15MB	11MB	11MB	11MB	11MB	11MB
Compatible Memory Formats	Memory Stick Duo/Memory Stick PRO Duo™	Memory Stick Duo/Memory Stick PRO Duo™	Memory Stick PRO/Memory Stick PRO Duo™	Memory Stick Duo/Memory Stick PRO Duo™	Memory Stick Duo/Memory Stick PRO Duo™	Memory Stick Duo/Memory Stick PRO Duo™	Memory Stick PRO Duo™	Memory Stick Duo/Memory Stick PRO Duo™
Shutter Speeds	1/8-1/2,000 seconds	1/4-1/1,600 seconds	1/4-1/1,600 seconds	2-1/1,600 seconds	2-1/1,000 seconds	12-1/2,000 seconds	2-1/1,250 seconds	12-1/4,000 seconds
Aperture Range	f/2.4-f/5.1	f/2.8-f/7.1 (with ND filter)	f/2.8-f/7.1 (with ND filter)	f/3.3-f/8.0 (with ND filter)	Auto: f/3.5-f/10	f/3.5-f/8.0	f/3.5-f/4.6	f/2.8-f/8.0
ISO Equivalent	Auto, 100, 200, 400, 800, 1600, 3200	Auto, 100, 200, 400, 800, 1600, 3200, 6400	Auto, 100, 200, 400, 800, 1600, 3200	Auto, 100, 200, 400, 800, 1600, 3200	Auto, 80, 100, 200, 400, 800, 1600, 3200	Auto, 80, 100, 200, 400, 800, 1600, 3200	Auto, 125, 200, 400, 800, 1600, 3200	Auto, 125, 200, 400, 800, 1600, 3200
Touchscreen	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Flash Modes	Auto, slow sync, and flash off	Auto, on, off, slow sync	Auto, on, off, slow sync	Auto, on, off, slow sync	Auto, flash on/off, slow sync	Auto, flash on/off, red-eye reduction on/off, slow sync	Auto, slow sync, and off	Auto, flash on/off, red-eye reduction on/off, slow sync
Face Detection	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Movie Mode	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Viewfinder	LCD Only	LCD Only	LCD Only	LCD Only	LCD Only	LCD Only	LCD Only	Electrical
Image Stabilization	Yes, digital	Yes, optical	Yes, optical	Yes, optical	Yes, optical	Yes, optical	Yes, optical	Yes, optical
HxWxD (inches)	2.25 x 3.6 x 0.75	2.25 x 3.7 x 0.9	2.25 x 3.75 x 0.9	2.4 x 3.9 x 0.9	2.4 x 3.75 x 0.6	2.75 x 4.25 x 1.9	2.4 x 3.75 x 0.7	3.4 x 4.6 x 3.6

* Prices listed in this issue are for general reference and may vary from retailer pricing.

FirstGlimpse

FUJIFILM

Digital Camera Zoom In To Great Photos

DIGITAL IMAGING



Fujifilm FinePix F72EXR

MSRP: \$249.95

SKU: 9503469

www.bestbuy.com/fuji

Quick Overview

Award-winning EXR sensor technology and being "the world's smallest 10x digital camera*" make the FinePix F72EXR the solution to capture the highest image quality, even under the most difficult shooting conditions. Low light, backlight, or very bright light are no problem for the F72EXR. A metal chassis for durability and a double lacquer finish means it looks as good as the pictures it takes.

Perfect For

The digital photographer looking for a super compact long zoom camera that makes it easy to capture great shots even under the toughest shooting conditions.

Outstanding Benefits

- 10-megapixel EXR Sensor Technology
- Fujinon 10x Wide Angle Optical Zoom (27-270mm equivalent)
- 2.7" High Contrast LCD viewable even in bright sunlight
- EXR AUTO mode automatically chooses the optimum sensor setting and scene mode for conditions
- Super Intelligent Flash control captures subjects naturally, even at an extremely close range
- High sensitivity up to ISO12800 for low light conditions
- Dual Image Stabilization helps prevent image blur

Coollest Feature

At only 22.7mm thin (0.9in.), this long zoom 10x camera fits right into your pocket, making it highly portable. Wide angle fits the whole group in, and 10x zoom lets you capture unsuspecting subjects up close.

*F72EXR is the world's smallest among digital cameras with 10X optical zoom lens; as of July 2009, FUJIFILM research.

FirstGlimpse



Digital Camera

Outstanding Images From A Pocketable Camera



MSRP \$249.99
less \$50 instant rebate
= \$199.99 in the month of December

Canon PowerShot SD780 IS Digital ELPH

MSRP: \$249.99

SKU: 9230539 (black)

SKU: 9231208 (silver)

SKU: 9231896 (gold)

SKU: 9231921 (red)

www.usa.canon.com

DIGITAL IMAGING

Quick Overview

No matter how good your bulky D-SLR is, there are times when you would much rather have a great point-and-shoot in your pocket than no camera at all. The combination of the Canon SD780's advanced automatic settings, optical image stabilization, and high ISO ratings means you can be confident you'll get an impressive shot every time you press the shutter. It can also capture 720 HD video and play it back on an HDTV with HDMI digital clarity.

Perfect For

Anyone looking for a pocketable point-and-shoot camera that takes great shots.

Outstanding Benefits

- 3X optical zoom/4X digital zoom
- 12.1 megapixels
- Optical Image Stabilizer
- DIGIC 4 Image Processor with Face Detection Self Timer face and blink detection
- 1280 x 720 HD video
- Continuous shooting mode with 0.8fps
- ISO 3200 Special Scene mode for sharp low-light snapshots
- 2.5-inch widescreen PureColor LCD II
- HDMI output

Coollest Feature

The Face Detection Self Timer waits until you're in the photo and looking at the camera before it snaps a picture.



Digital Camera In Style With A Cool Touch

DIGITAL IMAGING



Nikon COOLPIX S70 Digital Camera

MSRP: \$349.95

SKUs: 9463662 (black)

9455412 (red)

www.nikonusa.com

Quick Overview

Nikon's sleek COOLPIX S70 combines 12.1 megapixels and 5X wide-angle zoom with a bright 3.5-inch OLED touchscreen that makes taking and sharing pictures easy. The COOLPIX S70 features Nikon's 5-way Optical VR Image Stabilization System and a touch shutter that delivers sharp pictures even in the most demanding conditions.

Perfect For

Those looking for a stylish camera with powerful shooting features and a bright, responsive touchscreen display.

Outstanding Benefits

- 12.1 megapixels for stunning prints as large as 16 x 20 inches
- 5X wide-angle Zoom-NIKKOR glass lens that gets you close to the action and captures expansive landscapes
- Bright 3.5-inch high-resolution OLED touchscreen
- Touch Shutter and Autofocus—simply tap the OLED display to focus and shoot
- 5-way VR Image Stabilization
- 16 Scene Modes
- Record 720p HD movies with sound for high image quality at 30fps

Coollest Feature

The Smart Portrait System can soften skin tones, fix red-eye in camera, brighten dark faces, and detect smiles or blinking on up to 16 faces.

NOTEWORTHY

Accessories & Services



UV FILTER

- Protects digital camcorder and D-SLR lenses from dust, dirt, fingerprints, and scratches
- Get clearer, more detailed videos or photographs when you're shooting in bright conditions



EXTRA MEDIA

- Keep spare memory cards on hand so you can snap away without having to worry about running out of storage space
- Consider having several memory cards with smaller capacities instead of one card with a larger capacity; that way, if something goes wrong with one, you'll still have a backup
- For your digital camcorder, keep more recording media in your bag than you think you'll need, just in case



ADDITIONAL LENSES/CONVERTER LENSES

- Extra lenses for D-SLRs and converter lenses for digital camcorders can enhance your results by extending your field of view, reducing glare, and more
- Telephoto lenses enable you to zoom in from far away; wide-angle lenses give you the ability to get a full view even if you're close to the subject; and macro lenses will let you achieve up-close, detailed shots of your photo subject



EXTERNAL FLASH

- Light up your subjects from greater distances
- Offer better control of lighting conditions when taking photos by directing the angle of the flash



SPARE BATTERIES/CHARGER

- Be sure you're never caught without the power needed to capture the perfect moment
- Whether your camera uses proprietary batteries or AAs, keep at least one fully charged spare or set in your camera bag
- An additional battery charger will give you the flexibility to power up your camera batteries anywhere you're headed, even if you're traveling



TRIPOD

- Tripods are an easy way to ensure steady video footage
- Pan while recording video in one smooth motion
- Use a tripod and your camera's timer to get a picture of the entire group without needing someone to man the camera
- Keeps your camera steady while you're shooting close-up or distance shots, which can prevent photo blurring



REMOTE SWITCH

- A longer cable lets you snap photos without having to touch the camera, which can also reduce camera shake
- May enable the user to lock the shutter for longer exposure times



DIGITAL IMAGING SERVICES

Once you've set your sights on the camera or camcorder you want, consider taking advantage of the digital imaging services offered by your local CE retailer. Not only can you protect your investment, but you can also discover photography and videography skills that will make your photos and videos picture-perfect.

- D-SLR Or Camcorder Service Plan
- D-SLR Training Course
- Camcorder Training Course

Prices for digital camcorders and cameras continue to fall as their video and picture quality improves, which is especially good news for first-time buyers or those looking to upgrade. Pairing your new camcorder or camera with the right products will bring you better photography results. Here are some must-have accessories you should consider buying so you can get the most out of your digital imaging device. **FC**

New Features In



Windows[®] 7

Make Your PC Simpler And Easier To Use

Some technologies give you the ability to do things that weren't possible before, while others are merely newer versions of what we already have. In Windows 7, Microsoft (www.microsoft.com) has delivered an operating system that's more than just a shiny new toy. The fresh features of Windows 7 will enhance your ability to use your PC and simplify your daily computing activities. Here are just some of the enhancements you'll find in Windows 7.

Taskbar Made To Order

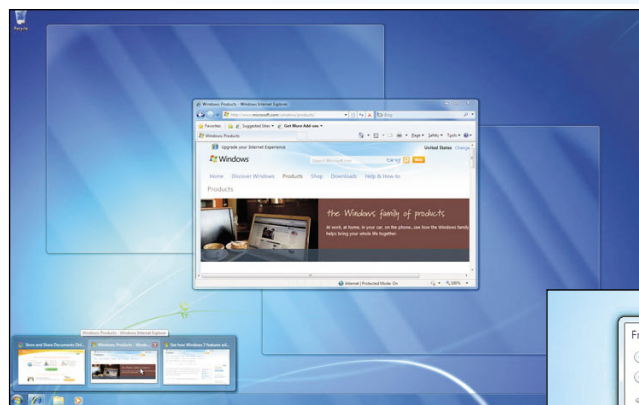
With the improved Taskbar in Windows 7, multitasking has never been so easy. Open applications will be highlighted in the row of Taskbar icons, and if you hover the cursor over an icon, you'll see a thumbnail preview of the application. Position your cursor over an application thumbnail, and you'll be treated to a live preview of what that application is doing—this is great for checking on the progress of a file download or to see if a Web page is finished loading. If you want to switch to a certain program window, simply click the thumbnail. And the Taskbar isn't only limited to applications; you can also pin your favorite Web sites and documents to it, making the programs and content you frequently access easily accessible.

Find Your Files

When it comes to searching for any file on your PC, you only need to click the Start button and enter a word or two.

SEVEN REASONS TO LIKE WINDOWS 7

- 1 Improved Taskbar allows you to multitask with fewer clicks
- 2 Live thumbnails deliver a preview of what an application is doing in the Taskbar
- 3 Pin your favorite applications, Web sites, and documents to the Taskbar for easy access
- 4 File searches are simplified by clicking the Start button and entering a word or two
- 5 With Snap you can arrange two windows exactly side-by-side just by dragging them to opposite sides of your screen
- 6 Easily share your photos, music, files, and printers on your home network—with HomeGroup
- 7 Find and stream media files over your home network quickly



Windows 7 delivers a live preview of the application from your Taskbar.

With the Jump List feature, Windows 7 allows you to open files you use regularly in just two clicks.

In the case of Windows Media Player 12, you can select the most frequently played music or resume a previous playlist.



Windows Search will generate a list of relevant results that are categorized by keywords, such as Programs, Music, and Control Panel, to make it easier to locate what you're looking for. Windows 7 also introduces a feature called Jump Lists, which displays the most common actions you perform within a particular program. For example, when you right-click the

Internet Explorer icon, you'll see your most frequently and recently visited Web sites, while Microsoft Word will display the documents you access regularly.

Multitask Faster

Using Windows 7's new Snap feature, Microsoft has given PC users a way to

Windows 7

FAQ

Windows 7 is chock-full of new features, and you probably have plenty of questions. To help you get acquainted with Microsoft's newest operating system, we'll address the most common inquiries.

Q Do I need a new PC to run Windows 7?

A No, you don't necessarily need a new PC. If your system can run Windows Vista, it can handle Windows 7. If you're not sure if your existing computer can handle Windows 7, run Microsoft's Windows 7 Upgrade Advisor (windows.microsoft.com/upgradeadvisor).

Q How do I know if my computer is compatible with a 64-bit version of Windows?

A The processor in your computer must be 64-bit compatible. If your PC is less than three years old, it's likely that your system is compatible with 64-bit Windows.

Q Will my current applications continue to work in Windows 7?

A Nearly all programs designed for Windows Vista work in Windows 7. To find out if particular applications will work with Windows 7, you can visit

the Windows 7 Compatibility Center (www.microsoft.com) or a software manufacturer's Web site.

Q What's the difference between the 32-bit and 64-bit versions of Windows 7?

A 32-bit and 64-bit refer to the two different methods your PC can use to sort data. A 64-bit version of Windows allows your PC to use more memory (4GB or more of RAM). This can be useful for avid gamers or for people who often run multiple programs at the same time.

Q What features are included with Windows 7 Professional edition that aren't included in Windows 7 Home Premium?

A If you work with your PC, you need Windows 7 Professional because it's designed to make working anywhere easier and more secure. It makes getting laptops set up and connected simpler.

It's easier to keep your hard work protected with file encryption and advanced backup. (All Windows 7 editions can save file backups to USB connected hard drives, CDs, or DVDs.) Most business programs designed for Windows XP will run on Windows 7, and Professional has an additional degree of compatibility with Windows XP Mode. And since life's not just about working, you get things like high-definition TV, movies, and gaming, too.

Q What's the difference between the Ultimate and Professional editions of Windows 7?

A Windows 7 Ultimate includes BitLocker Drive Encryption, which will secure your computer's data and information, keeping it safe from hackers. Also, a BitLocker To Go feature will encrypt your USB flash drives or external hard drives. Windows 7 Ultimate also allows you to work in the language of your choice, or switch among 35 languages.

quickly and easily resize and position open windows. Drag a window to the left- or right-hand side of your screen, and it will expand to fill half the screen, making this feature ideal for those times when you want to compare data between two applications. To maximize a window full-screen, just drag it to the top of your Desktop. Another unique new feature is Aero Shake, which lets you clean up your Desktop in seconds to focus on one application. By clicking an open program pane and jiggling your mouse, every window on-screen will minimize, except for the one you have selected.

Windows Search will generate a list of relevant results that are categorized by keywords, such as Programs, Music, and Control Panel, to make it easier to locate what you're looking for.

Networking Made Easy

Microsoft has also enhanced how you share files, printers, and other connected devices over your home network with HomeGroup. When you create a homegroup, Windows 7 will let you select the photos, music, documents, videos, and devices you want to share with other

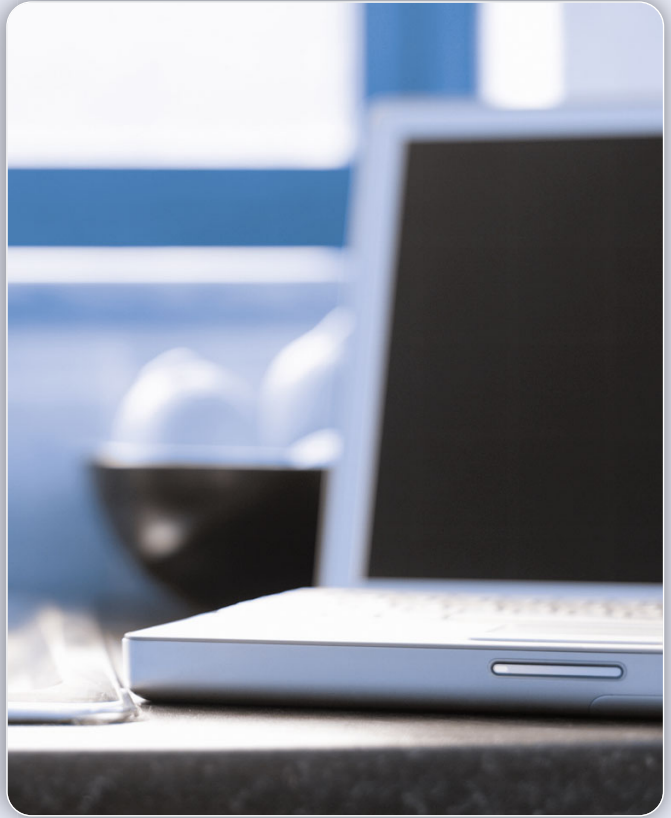
Windows 7 HomeGroup users. As an added bonus, Windows Media Center and Windows Media Player 12 automatically search the homegroup for content that can be streamed from one device to another, including music and pictures, making it simple to enjoy all of the multimedia files that are available on your network. **EG**

BY JOANNA SAFFORD

Desktops vs. Laptops

Find Your Computing Fit

FEATURE



How do you decide between a desktop or laptop computer when both devices offer quality features? You'll need to take a look at which one best fits your lifestyle, whether that only includes your needs or your wants, as well.

This is the type of perspective you'll need when you're searching for a new computer. But as you're looking at the differences between desktops and laptops (or even netbooks—see page 48 for more information), you should also keep the following comparisons in mind.

Desktops

By and large, a desktop is a good solution for people who don't plan on taking a computer with them everywhere they go. Or, if you're buying a computer for a gaming enthusiast who wants to upgrade the PC over time, a desktop can be easily upgraded by adding more storage and updating graphics cards. It's also a model well-suited for being used as a business workstation.

Components. What you should get inside your desktop will depend on what type of PC user you are: a photo

collector, music enthusiast, entertainment junkie, gamer, or maybe all of the above. If you place a high emphasis on quality HD content, you'll want a PC with a dedicated graphics card and Blu-ray Disc player. To house a lot of photos and music, the desktop should offer plenty of hard drive space. And those who are in the market for a gaming PC will need a model that has a fast processor and an advanced graphics card.

Display. With a desktop, you have multiple monitor options, including a space-saving LCD flat screen, a widescreen display, or a touchscreen

display. A larger LCD between 20 and 30 inches would be appropriate if you plan on editing hours of high-quality video. A touchscreen display lets you interact with your computer without always relying on a keyboard and mouse.

Depending on the system, you might have to purchase a desktop monitor separately. While some come with a matching monitor, others will only include the tower and the necessary peripherals, leaving the monitor choice (and purchase) up to you. Or, you can get an all-in-one system, which combines the tower with the monitor, which is a good solution for saving space and preventing cord clutter.

Practicality. Thinking in terms of everyday computing, a desktop is the standard for people who will want to add more hardware to maximize their computing experience. Large towers (especially the gaming variety) are designed for upgrades, such as additional hard drive storage, advanced graphics cards, and cooling systems. This way you won't have to purchase a new computer

if you run out of hard drive space or need to install more RAM.

Extra features. Desktops are for both work and play—some are especially geared for entertainment. You can use your desktop for entertainment purposes by installing a TV tuner to access shows on your media-center PC or by making sure your PC supports multiple memory card formats so you can upload photos or videos from your camera, camcorder, or phone.

Laptops

Most would say that the primary reason for purchasing a laptop is for convenient portable computing. Because they're lightweight (around 6 pounds) and generally compact, laptops are ideal for moving between your house, office, a coffee shop, and even out of town. Keep the following in mind as you search for a new laptop.

Components. You'll find that there are specific laptop types for certain lifestyles. Small-business laptops are great for corporate use or an in-home business, while an Internet and email laptop has features for anyone who needs to stay connected online as much as possible.

When shopping, look for a laptop with dual-core processing power to support lots of multitasking; a substantial amount of storage space, whether it's SATA (a traditional hard drive with moving parts) or SSD (a new storage specification without moving parts); and any built-in software packages, such as a multimedia or office suite.

Display. A laptop's screen size can range from 10 to 17 inches or more, measured diagonally. To help you decide which is best, consider comfort and computing compatibility. For instance, a larger screen is better for

extensive photo editing, multitasking, and using more than one window at once. If you're more comfortable with a lighter load, you can opt for a smaller screen, but you'll have less room for working with multiple windows. Eye strain on smaller windows is another factor to consider.

Practicality. Most of the laptop must-haves are oriented around connectivity and power. In order to access Wi-Fi hotspots, you want a laptop with built-in wireless. Or, Ethernet ports are necessary for a wired connection, in the event you need to access the Internet using a cable. Look for at least two USB ports so you can connect peripheral devices such as an external hard drive to access backed-up files. A memory card reader is also important for uploading photos from your latest road trip. In addition, you'll want a battery that will be able to sustain a long computing session without needing a charge, such as five or more hours.

Extra features. As you're checking out the features and specifications during your laptop shopping spree, look for the extras that will help you enjoy your laptop to the maximum. These features include a Web cam, widescreen display, and Blu-ray Disc player. This way you can use video calling programs and import digital video all while using a spacious screen.

Who Wants What?

If you're buying a computer for a family member or a friend, always keep in mind their personal preferences, whether they're into portability, graphics-intensive gaming, video editing, or constant online connectivity. If you're making a new purchase for yourself, be sure to recognize how you'll use your notebook or desktop on a day-to-day basis, so you can take advantage of a model that complements your lifestyle. **PG**

In Short: Desktops vs. Laptops

- If you need a gaming computer or a business workstation, a desktop is the way to go.
- Desktops can be upgraded over time and often have a larger display.
- Purchase a laptop if portable connectivity and on-the-go wireless communication are important to you.
- Laptops can fit anyone's lifestyle but are best-suited for students, travelers, or coffeehouse dwellers.

Connect On The Go

Give The Gift Of Netbook Computing

BY TESSA WARNER BRENNEMAN

If you've got your eye on a netbook this holiday season, you're not alone. Netbooks are a great gift for anyone on the move, including frequent travelers and students, but there are several considerations for you to mull over before you make your purchase.

Netbook vs. Notebook

A netbook is basically a stripped-down version of a notebook. It offers a processor that's less powerful than a notebook's as well as a smaller hard drive and less RAM. This prevents you from storing a lot of data or accessing multiple files and programs at the same time.

Additionally, the majority of netbooks lack an optical drive, so you won't be able to install software via disc or play CDs and DVDs. However, because of its limited functionality, a netbook's battery life is generally longer than that of a notebook.

Online Methods

Because a netbook is primarily designed to access the Internet when you're on the move, there are several ways you can connect. This is the best reason to purchase a netbook for your loved one. All netbooks offer access to wireless Internet through a built-in wireless LAN adapter. This means you can connect to public Wi-Fi hotspots, which are often found in locations such as coffee shops, restaurants, and airports, among others, or a wireless home network. Additionally, most netbooks include an Ethernet

port, so you can use an Ethernet cable for a wired connection. With the combination of these features, students can connect wirelessly to the Web while studying at the coffee shop and then enjoy a wired connection back at the dorms.

You might also find netbooks that use a 3G data connection, which access cell phone towers to connect to mobile networks. Because cell towers are far more prevalent than Wi-Fi hotspots, these will be able to access the Internet in more areas than ones that use wireless and wired Internet. This makes them great for traveling professionals who may need to connect to the Web while riding in a car or waiting for the subway.

Plug Into A Netbook

Because a netbook doesn't offer very much memory or an optical drive, you should look at what ports it features and how you (or the recipient) will use them. For example, a netbook with several USB ports would be good for students who need to connect an external optical drive or flash memory devices (such as a thumb drive or an external hard drive). Or, an included media card slot can be used to transfer photos and videos from memory cards to the computer, perfect for world travelers.

For Someone You Love

Students, professionals, traveling retirees, and anyone else on your list who



needs to connect to the Web on the go will get plenty of pleasure finding a netbook under the tree this year. **FG**

Netbook Notes

- A netbook is primarily used to connect to the Web anywhere an Internet connection is available.
- Netbooks have limited processing power, internal memory, and RAM but offer extended battery life, making them great for road warriors.
- Students, world travelers, and traveling business professionals all have lifestyles that could benefit from a netbook.

Home Suite Home

Microsoft Office Home & Student 2007



icrosoft's Office Home and Student 2007 (\$149; www.getmicrosoftoffice.com) is a lot like a family. Both

contain individual members that collectively form one cohesive unit. In Office Home and Student 2007's case, the individual members are Word, PowerPoint, Excel, and OneNote. Individually, they tackle word processing, presentation, spreadsheet, and organizational chores, respectively. Collectively, they give families the power and versatility to plan, create, manage, and complete life's daily appointments, commitments, and responsibilities.

Tools Of The Family Trade

A good tool enables anyone to adapt it for various situations and still produce superior results. Office Home and Student 2007 is such a tool. Word, for example, can help dad outline the family history he's been talking about for years as effectively as it can help mom compose a recipe book, while an Excel spreadsheet can log a daughter's



science fair project results as easily as it tracks her college fund. PowerPoint, meanwhile, has the range to let mom create a romantic, graphical walk down memory lane for her parents' 50th wedding anniversary and help her son's basketball team relive its past season in photos, words, and music. Finally, OneNote gives everyone the means to type, write, and draw ideas and reminders in digital notes they can edit, delete, and share.

Three Is The Magic Number

Complementing Office Home and Student 2007's productivity prowess is its affordability. With three licenses included with each copy, a family can install the suite on dad's PC, mom's laptop, and the twins' netbook for only about \$50 per system. Further, by taking

advantage of special retail deals such as Best Buy's PC Home Makeover promotion, which packages a Microsoft Windows 7-ready HP (www.hp.com) PC, laptop, netbook, and monitor with a Netgear (www.netgear.com) wireless router all for \$1,199.99, a family can fill the house with new computers ready to run Office Home and Student 2007.

Elsewhere, many new netbooks preload a 60-day Office Home and Student 2007 trial version that's easily upgradeable to a fully licensed version using the 25-digit Product Key a purchased copy of the suite includes. For netbooks without a preloaded trial version, users can go to www.getmicrosoftoffice.com and download and activate the suite using the key code contained in the product package purchased at your retailer.

The Ties That Bind

Universally satisfying a group of individuals with widely ranging needs with one product is tricky business. That Office Home and Student 2007 does this so effectively and affordably is reason enough for the suite to belong on every computer in the home. **FC**

Holiday Deal For The Family

From Dec. 6 to Jan. 9, Best Buy is making Office Home and Student 2007 available for just \$99. Factor in that each Office Home and Student 2007 copy includes three licenses, and a family can install Word, PowerPoint, Excel, and OneNote on three separate computers for only \$33 per system.

Microsoft LifeCam Cinema™

Experience The Difference



Microsoft LifeCam Cinema • \$79.95 • www.microsoft.com/hardware

LifeCam Cinema ADVANTAGES & FEATURES

- A 720p HD widescreen camera that can record video at up to 30 frames per second
- ClearFrame Technology provides a detailed and smooth video even on low light scenarios.
- 5MP stills (interpolated) offer crisp-looking photos
- Auto Exposure, Auto White Balance, and I/R Cut Filter helps ensure that the LifeCam adapts to the light levels, colors, and other conditions where you record

COMPUTERS

The advent of Windows 7 means new features, advanced innovations, and the release of the latest Windows 7-related accessories for your computer.

One peripheral that can bring your computing experience to the next level is the Microsoft LifeCam Cinema™ (\$79.95; www.microsoft.com/hardware)—a video camera that sports a 720p HD sensor that will help you create professional-looking videos to share on social networking sites such as YouTube and Facebook or have high quality video calls. With LifeCam Cinema in hand, you can join fast-growing Web video communities and complement the latest OS from Microsoft.

For Work & Play

If you're interested in finding a Web cam with top video quality and a widescreen view, then the LifeCam Cinema won't disappoint. It offers a Native widescreen sensor and a 74-degree field of view, giving multiple video chat participants the chance to be fully seen without the need to squeeze into a small amount of space. Now that more than 95% of notebooks, desktop monitors, and flat-panel TVs employ widescreen displays, it's even more appropriate to use a Web camera that's purposed for a widescreen format. This is especially true for businesses that frequently need to hold videoconferences with their clients; LifeCam Cinema

works with Office Communicator for video calling.

Microsoft has quite literally "sharpened its focus" on the LifeCam Cinema features, such as Auto Focus and ClearFrame Technology. Thanks to these innovative features, out-of-state relatives that constantly keep in touch with the rest of the family will enjoy sharper images during up-close video chats. Auto Focus automatically maintains a sharp image even if you're sitting far from or extremely close to the camera (as close as 4 inches away), and Microsoft's ClearFrame Technology produces smooth-looking video and a faster image processing technology, so you'll look better when you're sitting in an environment that's dimly lit.

For Parents & Students

Whether you're a busy mother of a college student or student who needs to communicate with his mom via Web

video chatting, the LifeCam Cinema enables both parties to talk freely using Windows Live Messenger, Skype, Yahoo! Messenger, or AOL. Both mom and son can hear each other loud and clear with the noise-canceling microphone that helps reduce background noise and audio interference that can emanate from nearby electronic devices. Students will also appreciate the LifeCam Cinema's compatibility with both Windows Live Movie Maker and Window Live Photo Gallery, as this will let them effortlessly upload images and videos to share with friends on their favorite social networking sites.

For The Future

Microsoft's LifeCam Cinema packs a whole host of high-end features in a small Web cam, and it's sure to make an improved difference in how you and your loved ones can communicate with one another. **EG**

Benefits

- You can use the Internet to make calls rather than a landline phone.
- Some VoIP services can be used through your PC and require a headset.
- A VoIP converter box lets you use a standard home phone.

Get On The Phone With The Web

Dial Others With Your PC

An Internet connection can provide a host of services, such as checking email, playing multiplayer games, browsing the Web, and much more. And, like the tap water in your kitchen and the hose in your backyard, the Internet is available when you need it. VoIP (Voice over Internet Protocol—pronounced “voyp”) is just another way to use the connection.

VoIP lets you use the Internet to make phone calls rather than a traditional phone line. This has several advantages. It usually costs less than a standard phone service, and you can keep track of who called you and manage other services—such as international calling—from a Web site. For example, you can see a list of anyone who has called you and even listen to your voicemail online.

Types Of VoIP Hardware

The equipment you’ll need to start using VoIP will depend on what kind of device you want to make phone calls from. In most cases, you will need to buy a small converter box that attaches to a home router. You just plug your home phone into the converter box.

Then you’ll contact the provider to set up a phone number (or transfer your existing number). VoIP service generally costs about half as much as a standard home phone line. Service



providers for VoIP vary in quality, price, and features, but most of the converter boxes work the same. The main criterion for choosing a provider is whether it has the features you want. For example, you might prefer a service that lets you easily add extra VoIP lines.

A few VoIP systems work directly with your computer. In this case, you’ll need a headset adapter that includes an external microphone, which will plug into the speaker and microphone ports on your computer. Next, you’ll need VoIP software, which lets you make calls with other users of the same service. To dial anyone, however, you will need a dedicated phone number, which costs a little extra. VoIP software does not require a converter box for your home phone, but it won’t be able to use your existing phone.

When a call comes in, you will see a pop-up on your computer that lists the caller name and number. To answer a call, you will click on a button in the VoIP software and start speaking on the headset. Of course, you can also use the software to manage your service.

Other Necessities

No matter which method you choose, you’ll need a fast Internet connection. Typically, you will need at least a 2Mbps connection or more, and the speed you use depends greatly on whether you will also use the connection for multiplayer games, file downloads, or watching online video. If everyone is using the Internet at the same time, the call quality will degrade; thus, a 5Mbps connection or more is recommended. **FG**

BY JOHN BRANDON

Roxio Creator 2010

Easily Create, Preserve & Share Holiday Memories



roxio Creator 2010 (\$99.99; www.roxio.com) is a multimedia suite equipped with a host of tools for working with video, photos, music, and more.

With Roxio Creator 2010, you can make gorgeous and creative holiday gifts for your family and friends.



Roxio Creator 2010
\$99.99 • www.roxio.com

Sharing Movie Moments

Roxio's Creator 2010 will let you turn your home videos into a retrospective of the kids' activities throughout the year to share with your loved ones.

The multimedia suite offers plenty of automatic features for those who are new to video editing as well as more advanced features for experienced users. Either way, you can include professional features, such as navigation menus and music tracks, on your movies with ease.

Get Creative With Photos

With all of the digital snapshots you've been collecting over the years, you can turn them into many unique projects, including greeting cards, calendars, gift tags, holiday invitations, and anything else your fertile imagination comes up with. Drag and drop your favorites into Roxio Creator 2010's templates to quickly make your own masterpieces.

And with the included photo editing features, you can crop, touch up, and add effects to make your photos look their best before adding them to a slideshow or other media project.

A Holiday Music Mix

With Roxio Creator 2010, there is virtually no source you can't capture audio from, including CDs, Internet radio Web sites, and even old LPs and cassette tapes. With the included sound editor, you can enhance the audio you capture, adding sound effects and transitions with a few simple steps.

Add to that an easy drag-and-drop burning interface and you can create playlists for your holiday gatherings or give your music compilations as stocking stuffers.

Stunning Online PhotoShows

With the included Roxio PhotoShow, you can create stunning slideshows complete with transitions, captions, animated stickers, and music and then share them privately online with your friends and family or embed them on your Facebook page, blog, or personal Web site. You can also burn your PhotoShow to DVD or Blu-ray Disc to play on your TV and optimize it for mobile devices such as iPods to enjoy on the go.

Although Roxio Creator 2010 lets you make stunning gifts for others, the software itself makes for a great gift—maybe one you can treat yourself to. **PG**

Roxio Creator 2010 Video Features

- You can capture video from a variety of sources, including Web video sites.
- Roxio Creator renders your video five times faster than before and cuts video processing time from hours to minutes with Smart Encoding.
- Easily burn video from a camcorder directly to DVD or BD (Blu-ray Disc).
- Convert your video for playback on mobile devices.
- The software includes automatic editing features for novices and advanced features for experienced users.
- Lets you easily add navigation menus, music, and more for Hollywood-style DVDs and BDs.

Overview

- With Roxio Creator 2010, it's easy to import audio, video, and photos from virtually any device.
- Lets you create movies, slideshows, music mixes, and more.
- You can burn and copy CDs, DVDs, and Blu-ray Discs.
- Share your creations online via a social networking site, your blog, or your personal Roxio Web page.
- Get helpful tutorials from the built-in Learning Center.

FirstGlimpse

Top 10 Things To Know About Networking

Keep It Simple, Safe & Speedy

Setting up a wired or wireless network at home or networking while on the road only requires a few components. At the core of any network is the router, a central hub through which all the connected devices communicate and access Internet service. On a wired network, devices connect via Ethernet cable. On a wireless network, computers connect through the Wi-Fi protocol, although Wi-Fi routers often include a few Ethernet ports, as well.

Once everything is set up, there are a few additional things you should take into consideration. These 10 tips will help keep your network operations running smoothly.

1 Tell your computer what to share.

Networking lets you access files and additional resources on other computers connected to the same network. But you can do this only after you've enabled File Sharing in your computer's Control Panel (Windows) or System Preferences (Macs).

2 Consolidate your setup with network-ready peripheral devices.

Some printers, scanners, and external hard drives let you connect them to a network router. This way, a single device is available to all network users instead of needing one at each computer.

3 Choose the 802.11n specification.

Wi-Fi, whose technical label is 802.11, uses four possible standards: a, b, g, and n. The latest standard is 802.11n, which provides the best combination of transmission speed, range, security, and flexibility.

4 Use the 5GHz frequency.

Most wireless networks use the 2.4GHz frequency, which other gadgets also use. Too many competing devices can cause signal interference in the form of slowdowns and dropouts. If your router supports it, use the 5GHz frequency instead—it's less crowded.

5 Keep your Wi-Fi network private by activating your router's password-protected encryption.

You can set up a password on your router to prevent strangers from wirelessly connecting to your network. Such uninvited guests will leech part of your bandwidth and may also have nefarious schemes in mind, such as exploring files on your hard drive or using your service for illegal activity.

6 Use your router firewall instead of your computer firewall.

Generally, router firewalls are more powerful than their software counterparts and won't impede traffic within your network.

7 If you are worried about internal threats, you'll need a software firewall.

Router firewalls only monitor inbound communication. If you're apprehensive about spyware or other malware sending out information about you, a software firewall will monitor outgoing traffic and alert you to unexpected communication.

8 Network connections can stop working every once in awhile.

Network connections will inexplicably fail sometimes but can usually be restored simply by turning off your router and then turning it right back on. If Internet access is affected (and it isn't your service provider's fault), turn off your modem, too; after its connection is re-established, turn your router back on.

9 Bring the proper hardware for networking while traveling.

A notebook computer with built-in Wi-Fi will let you join wireless networks (hot-spots) just about anywhere. But bring along a short Ethernet cable, too, in case you need to make a wired connection.

10 When networking in public, disable File and Printer Sharing.

You probably don't need these when not at home. On a public network, hackers could use these open settings to exploit your computer. **FG**

BY BRIAN HODGE

Essential

THINGS TO KNOW

RAM

Q What is RAM?

A RAM is an acronym for random-access memory, a PC component that reads and writes applications to and from the hardware in your PC. It's shaped like slim, ruler-like sticks.

Q What does more RAM let me do?

A RAM will let you multitask faster and run multiple programs simultaneously, such as a multimedia player, Web browser, and video editor. You should note that some programs will require more RAM to operate smoothly.

Q How much RAM should my computer have?

A Most new systems come with 3GB or more, which will let operating systems such as Windows Vista or Windows 7 run smoothly. However, 1GB is acceptable for scaled-down PC systems, such as netbooks.

Q Is it possible to have too much RAM?

A Not really. With this PC component, it's always better to have too much than not enough, so it's acceptable to buy as much and as fast of RAM that your PC will support.

Q How fast should RAM be?

A RAM speed is calculated in megahertz (abbreviated as MHz), and the higher the megahertz, the better. Standard memory will operate at speeds of 400MHz but can be upgraded up to 1,600MHz.

Q What's the difference between DDR2 and DDR3 memory?

A DDR2 (double data rate 2) is a second-generation high-performance memory specification that supports high transfer speeds. DDR3 (double data rate 3) is currently the most advanced memory technology that won't let programs get bogged down.

Q What types of RAM are available?

A The most commonly used types of RAM are DRAM (dynamic random-access memory) and SDRAM (synchronous DRAM). These perform tasks at a standard processing speed to support the tasks you want to complete on your operating system.

Q Should I pay more for extra built-in RAM or buy it separately?

A It's typically more expensive to purchase a PC with lots of RAM. Opt for buying a system with at least 2GB of RAM, and you can then match the right type of RAM to your system as needed. For example, people who use applications that demand a lot of RAM, such as video-editing programs and graphics-intensive computer games, can add more as needed.









Q How do I know if I need more RAM?

A If programs on your PC are freezing, games aren't running, or if you start to hear a grinding noise when you save files to your drive, you probably need more RAM. Or, if you are installing a program that requires more RAM than your computer has, you'll need more.



Which Notebook Computer Is Best For You?









A notebook computer is a pretty big purchase for most people, and it's usually a bit overwhelming, too. This chart compares the features and specs from several different types of notebook models.

		Operating system	Processor	Hard drive size; RAM	Screen size	Dimensions; Weight	Optical drives; Media card reader
	What It Means	The software (usually Windows or Mac OS X) that controls your computer	Chip that controls the computer (typically, a bigger number is better)	How much data the computer can hold; Memory that's read and written to	The diagonal measurement of the notebook's screen	Height x width x depth; How much the laptop weighs	Drives that can read and write discs; Slots that read media cards without a separate peripheral
	Acer AS5532-5535 MSRP: \$349.99* SKU 9555769	Windows 7 Home Premium	1.6GHz AMD Athlon	160GB; 3GB	15.6 inches	1.5x14.4x10.8 inches; N/A	Double-layer DVD±RW/CD-RW; Yes
	Gateway EC1410U MSRP: \$399.99* SKU 9574757	Windows 7 Home Premium	1.3GHz Intel Celeron	250GB; 2GB	11.6 inches	0.8 to 1.1x11.2x8 inches; 2.9 pounds	No; Yes
	Toshiba Satellite L505-S5990 MSRP: \$639.99* SKU 9549045	Windows 7 Home Premium	2.1GHz Intel Core 2 Duo Processor T6500	320GB; 3GB	16 inches	1.6x15.1x10.2 inches; 6 pounds	Double-layer DVD±RW/CD-RW; Yes
	HP Pavilion dv7-3065dx MSRP: \$729.99* SKU 9556296	Windows 7 Home Premium	2.4GHz AMD Turion II Ultra Dual-Core M600	500GB; 4GB	17.3 inches	1.37 to 1.7x16.2x10.9 inches; 7.69 pounds	Double-layer DVD±RW/BD/CD-RW; Yes
	Sony Vaio VPC-CW17FX/W MSRP: \$799.99* SKU 9528996	Windows 7 Home Premium	2.2GHz Intel Core 2 Duo T6600	500GB; 4GB	14 inches	1.5x13.4x9.2 inches; 5.3 pounds	Double-layer DVD±RW/BD/CD-RW; Yes
	Apple MacBook MSRP: \$999* SKU 9611541	Mac OS X 10.6 Snow Leopard	2.26GHz Intel Core 2 Duo	250GB; 2GB	13.3 inches	1.08x13x9.12 inches; 4.7 pounds	Double-layer DVD±RW/CD-RW; No
	Asus G60VX-RBBX05 MSRP: \$999.99* SKU 9556072	Windows 7 Home Premium	2.1GHz Intel Core 2 Duo	320GB; 4GB	16 inches	1.6x14.8x10.4 inches; 7.2 pounds	Double-layer DVD±RW/CD-RW; Yes
	Dell Adamo MSRP: \$1,499* SKU 9375035	Windows 7 Premium	1.2GHz Intel Core 2 Duo	128GB; 2GB	13.4 inches	0.65x13.09x9.5 inches; 4 pounds	No; No

*Prices listed in this issue are for general reference and may vary from retailer pricing.

Which Netbook Is Best For You?









Netbooks don't offer the full capabilities that notebooks do, but these compact devices are ideal for those who need to stay connected while on the go. To find the netbook that fits your mobility needs, here's a comparison of the latest models.

		Operating system	Processor	Hard drive size; RAM	Graphics card	Memory card reader	Ports
What It Means		The software (usually Windows XP or Linux) that controls your PC	Chip that controls the computer (typically, a bigger number is better)	How much data the computer can hold; Memory that's read and written to	Controls the quality of the video and images you see on-screen	Slots that can read media cards without a separate peripheral	Sockets that give your computer access to different peripherals
	Asus Eee PC 900HD MSRP: \$249.99* SKU 9447495	Windows XP Home	N/A	160GB; 1GB	Intel Graphics Media Accelerator 950	SD/MMC	3 USB; 1 Ethernet
	Gateway LT2023U MSRP: \$299.99* SKU 9568639	Windows XP Home	1.6GHz Intel Atom N270	160GB; 1GB	Intel Graphics Media Accelerator 950	SD/MMC/MS/MS Pro/xD-Picture Card	3 USB; 1 Ethernet; 1 VGA
	MSI U100-641US MSRP: \$329.99* SKU 9178775	Windows XP Home	1.6GHz Intel Atom N270	160GB; 1GB	Intel Graphics Media Accelerator 950	SD/MMC/MS/MS Pro	3 USB; 1 Ethernet; 1 VGA
	Asus MK90 MSRP: \$349.99* SKU 9441865	Windows XP Home	N/A	160GB; 1GB	Intel Graphics Media Accelerator 950	SD/SDHC/MMC	3 USB; 1 Ethernet; 1 VGA
	HP Mini 1036 NR PC MSRP: \$369.99* SKU 9446138	Windows XP Home	1.6GHz Intel Atom	160GB; 1GB	Intel Graphics Media Accelerator 950	SD/SDHC/MMC/MS/xD-Picture Card	3 USB; 1 Ethernet; 1 VGA
	Compaq Mini 110c-1040DX MSRP: \$389.99* SKU 9376953	Windows XP Home	1.6GHz Intel Atom	160GB; 1GB	Intel Graphics Media Accelerator 950	SD/MMC/MS/xD-Picture Card	3 USB; 1 Ethernet
	Toshiba NB205-N325PK MSRP: \$399.99* SKU 9575603	Windows 7 Starter Edition	1.6GHz Intel Atom N280	160GB; 1GB	Intel Graphics Media Accelerator 950	SD/SDHC/MMC	3 USB; 1 Ethernet
	Sony Vaio VPCW121AX/W MSRP: \$499.99* SKU 9568185	Windows 7 Starter Edition	1.6GHz Intel Atom N280	250GB; 1GB	Intel Graphics Media Accelerator 950	MS Pro	2 USB; 1 Ethernet; 1 VGA

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Which All-In-One PC Is Right For You?

An all-in-one computer is compact, thanks to all its hardware being placed in the monitor. Some models offer a touchscreen interface that lets you access functions by selecting on-screen items with your finger, while others rely on a wireless mouse and keyboard. To see which all-in-one PC fits your needs, check out the chart below.

		Operating system	Processor	Hard drive size; RAM	Display; Optical drive	Ports	Graphics card
What It Means		The software (usually Windows or Mac OS X) that controls your computer	Chip that controls the computer (typically, a bigger number is better)	How much data the computer can hold; Memory that's read and written to	Display size (measured diagonally); Disc drive included with the system	Sockets the computer has for accessing peripherals	Controls the quality of your video and images
	MSI WindTop AE1900-14SUS MSRP: \$399.99* SKU 9571395	Windows XP Home	1.6GHz Intel Atom 230	160GB; 1GB	18.5 inches; Double-layer DVD±RW/CD-RW	4 USB, 1 Ethernet, media card reader	Intel Graphics Media Accelerator 950
	Sony Vaio VGC-JS450F/S MSRP: \$999.99* SKU 9561592	Windows 7 Home Premium	2.7GHz Intel Pentium E5400	500GB; 4GB	20.1 inches; Double-layer DVD±RW/BD/CD-RW	1 USB, 1 Ethernet, media card reader	Nvidia GeForce 9300M GS
	Apple iMac MSRP: \$1,699* SKU 9611587	Mac OS X v10.6 Snow Leopard	3.06GHz Intel Core 2 Duo	1TB; 4GB	27 inches; Double-layer DVD±RW/CD-RW	4 USB, 1 Ethernet, 1 FireWire, 1 SD	ATI Radeon HD 4670
	Gateway ZX4800-02 MSRP: \$749.99* SKU 9527942	Windows 7 Home Premium	2.1GHz Intel Pentium T43001	750GB; 4GB	20 inches; Double-layer DVD±RW/CD-RW	6 USB, 1 Ethernet, memory card reader	Intel Graphics Media Accelerator X4500HD
	Averatec D1005VH1E-1 MSRP: \$749.99* SKU 9514803	Windows Vista Home Premium	2.5GHz Intel Pentium E5200	320GB; 3GB	22 inches; Double-layer DVD±RW/CD-RW	5 USB, 1 DVI, 1 Ethernet, media card reader	Intel Graphics Media Accelerator X4500HD
	HP TouchSmart 300-1020 MSRP: \$899.99* SKU 9563171	Windows 7 Home Premium (64-bit)	2.7GHz AMD Athlon II 235e	500GB; 4GB	20 inches; Double-layer DVD±RW/CD-RW	5 USB, 1 Ethernet, media card reader	ATI Radeon HD 3200
	Sony Vaio VPC-L111FX/B MSRP: \$1,299.99* SKU 9560995	Windows 7 Home Premium (64-bit)	2.7GHz Intel Pentium E5400	320GB; 4GB	24 inches; Double-layer DVD±RW/BD/CD-RW	5 USB, 1 Ethernet, 1 i.Link, media card reader	Nvidia GeForce G210M
	HP TouchSmart 600-1055 MSRP: \$1,599.99* SKU 9555821	Windows 7 Home Premium (64-bit)	2.13GHz Intel Core 2 Duo P7450	750GB; 4GB	23 inches; Double-layer DVD±RW/BD/CD-RW	6 USB, 1 Ethernet, media card reader	Nvidia GeForce GT230M

*Prices listed in this issue are for general reference and may vary from retailer pricing.

Software Listings

Get More Out Of Your PC

Computers can be used to create greeting cards, play games, balance your checkbook, and more. The thing is, most of these functions aren't available straight out of the box. To fully harness your computer's potential, you'll need to buy software. Here are some options.

Art/Illustration/Graphics



Corel Paint Shop Pro Photo X2 Ultimate
\$99.99*
www.corel.com

Professional photo-editing software in an easy-to-use package. The Ultimate version also comes with a bonus pack loaded with free extras.



Adobe Photoshop Lightroom 2
\$299*
www.adobe.com

This photo management software from Adobe lets you quickly and easily import, process, manage, and showcase your images. Plus, it integrates with Photoshop CS4.



Roxio Creator 2010
\$99.99*
www.roxio.com

See p. 52

Use Roxio Creator 2010 to easily capture, enhance, and save your photos, videos, and audio projects. Plus, easy sharing is available via CD, DVD, your mobile phone, your iPod, or YouTube. It also includes video tutorials for advanced and beginner projects.



Broderbund The Print Shop 23 Deluxe
\$49.99*
www.broderbund.com

No matter the project, you can use The Print Shop 23 Deluxe to easily create banners, business cards, letterhead, calendars, photo greeting cards, invitations, and more.

Audio/Video



Pinnacle Studio Ultimate Collection
\$129.99*
www.pinnaclesys.com

Pinnacle Studio Ultimate Collection comes with a full set of plug-ins and a Chroma-key green screen for advanced effects, editing, and production.



Apple iLife '09
\$79*
www.apple.com

Use Apple's popular iPhoto, iMovie, iWeb, GarageBand, and iDVD on your Mac to organize photos, create a Web site, record music, or edit movies.



Cakewalk Music Creator 5
\$34.99*
www.cakewalk.com

A user-friendly interface lets you bring your music to life and give it a professional sound. You can record, transcribe, and print your very own music.



Apple Final Cut Express 4
\$199.99*
www.apple.com

A drag-and-drop interface provides seamless movement between editing, trimming, and adding effects to your videos. The software is compatible with popular HD formats, including HDV and AVCHD.

Business Applications



Microsoft Office Home & Student 2007
\$149.95*
www.microsoft.com

See p. 49

The Home and Student version of Microsoft Office 2007 includes Word, PowerPoint, Excel, and OneNote, which meets the basic consumer's needs perfectly.



Adobe Acrobat 9 Standard (Upgrade)
\$99*
www.adobe.com

Upgrade to Adobe Acrobat 9 Standard to easily create, combine, and manage various PDF documents with improved features.



Intuit Quicken Home & Business 2010
\$99.99*
www.quicken.intuit.com

Features of the 2010 version of Quicken Home and Business include automatic bill reminders and a one-page view of your finances. Plus, it shows you where you're spending and where you can save.



TurboTax Business Federal + E-file 2009
\$99.95*
www.turbotax.intuit.com

Corporations, partnerships, and LLCs can complete a federal business income tax return, and a free e-file is included with purchase.

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Games/ Entertainment



2K Games Sid Meier's Civilization IV: The Complete Edition

\$39.99*

www.2kgames.com

Get the complete Civilization IV experience with the DRM-free version of classic Civilization IV plus three expansions.



Her Interactive Nancy Drew Dossier

\$19.99*

www.herinteractive.com

You, as Nancy Drew, go undercover on a movie set to investigate a Hollywood-style mystery. Uncover who is behind suspicious press leaks and production accidents with Nancy's sleuthing skills. Earning points during the game reveals an alternate ending.



Electronic Arts The Sims 3

\$49.95*

www.ea.com

Create your very own Sims. Customize their personalities, appearances, and homes, then send them out into the world to explore the neighborhood and meet new friends.



Lego Indiana Jones 2: The Adventure Continues

\$29.99*

www.lucasarts.com

Explore the locations from all four films and build your own levels and environments. And, all of your favorite characters are depicted in Lego form.

Home Productivity



Nuance Dragon NaturallySpeaking 10 Preferred

\$199.99*

www.nuance.com

Dictate emails, reports, and documents much faster than you can type by letting Dragon NaturallySpeaking do the typing for you. The software has an accuracy rate of up to 99%.



Apple MobileMe

\$99*

www.apple.com

MobileMe, Apple's

Internet service, lets you keep your email, contacts, and calendar up-to-date across your iPhone, iPod touch, Mac, and PC. It also lets you store and share documents online via iDisk, and you can manage everything online through a suite of Web applications at www.me.com.



DeLorme Street Atlas USA 2010 Plus

\$39.95*

www.delorme.com

Street Atlas USA 2010 Plus is updated with new roads and road names, and it's now ready for use on any of your favorite devices, such as GPSes, netbooks, computers, and smartphones.



Susteen Data Pilot Backup & Sync Kit (LG)

\$24.99*

www.datapilot.com

Back up and sync your cell phone memory to your computer with a backup and sync kit. Kits for other phone manufacturers are also available.

Security/ Utilities



Kaspersky Lab Internet Security 2010

\$79.95*

www.kaspersky.com

The newest version of Kaspersky Internet Security 2010 includes protection from the latest viruses, spyware, and malware threats.



Kaspersky Lab Anti-Virus 2010

\$59.95*

www.kaspersky.com

Kaspersky Anti-Virus 2010 includes essential protection against Internet threats, such as viruses, spyware, Trojans, and more, and phishing and identify theft defense, as well.



Webroot AntiVirus With Spy Sweeper 2010

\$49.95*

www.webroot.com

Protect up to three computers from viruses and spyware. Spy Sweeper stops both known and potential threats by blocking suspicious activity and is compatible with Microsoft's Windows 7 operating system.



Trend Micro AntiVirus + AntiSpyware

\$39.95*

www.trendmicro.com

Automatic scans, updates, and outbreak alerts make it easy to safeguard data and files. Protects against viruses, worms, spyware, and Trojan horses, keeping your personal data safe.

Backup/ Recovery



Symantec Norton Ghost 14.0

\$69.99*

www.symantec.com

Back up your entire computer or select specific files for backup to ensure you're able to recover from any unforeseen events, such as a crash or virus attack.



iolo System Mechanic

\$49.95*

www.iolo.com

With System Mechanic, you can find and fix errors and fragmentation on your PC, clean out clutter, and optimize your system for best performance.



Macware MacTuneUp

\$34.99*

macwareinc.com

Apple's software offering cleans your Mac by providing automatic maintenance and boosting Internet speed. You can create a bootable backup with disk clones and also back up individual system folders.



iolo DriveScrubber

\$29.95*

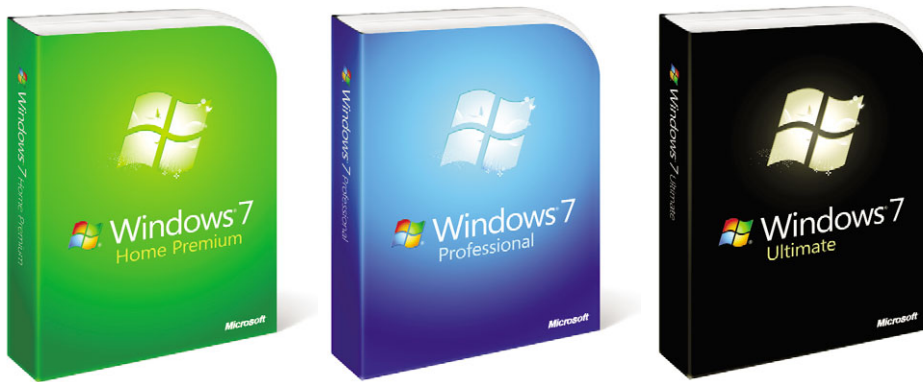
www.iolo.com

When it's time to get rid of your old computer, use DriveScrubber to ensure all your personal data has been deleted. DriveScrubber will wipe your entire drive, including free space, and restore damaged drives.



Windows® 7

Your PC, Simplified



Windows 7

Home Premium MSRP: \$119.99

SKU: 9382697

Professional MSRP: \$199.99

SKU: 9382679

Ultimate MSRP: \$219.99

SKU: 9508295

www.windows7.com

Quick Overview

With Windows 7, your PC is easier and simpler to use. From the improved Taskbar to simple network access and file sharing, Windows 7 is Microsoft's best operating system to date.

Perfect For

People who want a computer that is easy to use, easy to connect, more reliable, and compatible with all the software you already know and the latest technology.

Outstanding Benefits

- **HomeGroup** creates your home network with just four mouse clicks
- **Windows Media Center** allows you to watch, pause, and rewind HD television programs; record like a DVR; view slideshows of your digital images; and listen to music
- **Windows Media Player 12** supports playback of more popular media formats
- **Internet Explorer 8** includes new, intuitive features that quicken your ability to navigate the Web
- **Windows Taskbar** allows you to organize and pin your regularly accessed programs and files to the Taskbar
- **Windows Live Essentials** provides for email and instant messaging as well as managing your photos and creating home videos
- **Libraries** allow you to organize your documents, photos, music, and more

Coollest Feature

Windows Search lets you search on your PC the same way you do on the Internet.

Keyboard & Mouse

Take Your Windows 7 Experience Further



Microsoft Wireless Comfort Desktop 5000

MSRP: \$79.95

SKU: 9457848

www.microsoft.com/hardware

COMPUTERS

Quick Overview

The Microsoft Wireless Comfort Desktop is the perfect complement for Windows 7. The wireless keyboard offers time-saving features such as Taskbar Favorites for easy access to open programs and files, as well as any programs on the Taskbar. It also includes low-profile Quiet Touch keys as well as a soft-touch palm rest to promote better posture while you remain productive. The wireless mouse is built for comfort and includes BlueTrack Technology™, allowing the mouse to operate on more surfaces.

Perfect For

People looking for the best peripherals to use with Windows 7.

Outstanding Benefits

- The Wireless Comfort Keyboard includes buttons for one-touch access to your Taskbar Favorites and media playback features
- The Wireless Mouse 5000 includes numerous features that add precision, efficiency, and reliability to your computing experience
- 2.4GHz wireless provides a reliable connection to your keyboard and mouse with a range of up to 30 feet
- BlueTrack Technology lets you use your mouse on virtually any surface, including granite countertops and soft carpet
- 4-way Scrolling lets you scroll four ways for greater efficiency

Cooler Feature

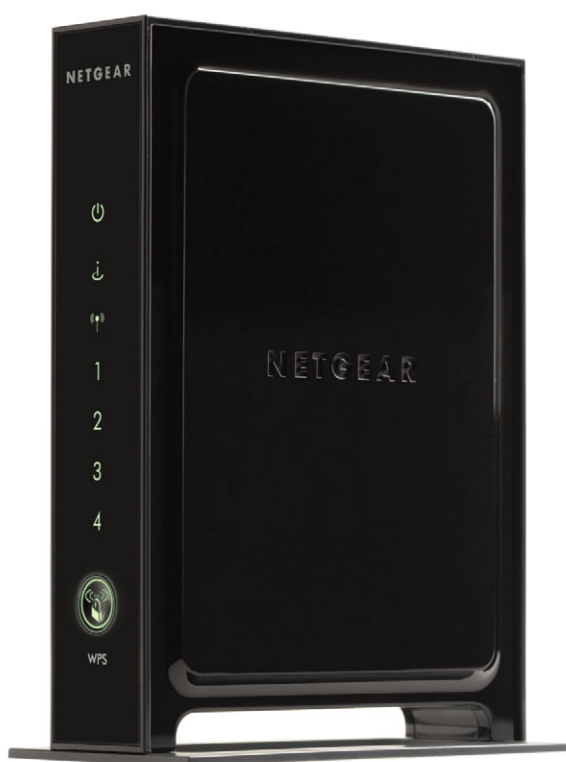
Microsoft's Comfort Curve design encourages natural wrist posture while typing, and Microsoft BlueTrack Technology allows you to work on virtually any surface (except clear glass and mirrored surfaces).

NETGEAR®



Wireless Router

Simple, Secure & Smart



NETGEAR Wireless-N Router (WNR2000)

MSRP: \$79.99

SKU: 8998506

www.netgear.com

COMPUTERS

Quick Overview

Get connected to the Web easily and efficiently with NETGEAR's WNR2000, which uses the fastest Wi-Fi protocol—802.11n. To get started, simply insert the installation CD, follow the NETGEAR Smart Wizard steps, press the Push 'N' Connect button on the router, and your computers will be safely added to your network. And to ensure your network is reliable and working at an optimal speed, a Broadband Usage Meter and Automatic Quality of Service are included.

Perfect For

Anyone who wants a fast, reliable network that doesn't require a complicated setup.

Outstanding Benefits

- **802.11n-compatible and backward-compatible with 802.11b/g**
- **Up to 300Mbps** data transfer rates for high-speed connectivity
- **Push 'N' Connect** securely connects devices with one button
- **WPA2-PSK, WPA-PSK, and WEP security protocols, double firewall protection, and (DoS) Denial-of-Service attack prevention**
- **Live Parental Controls** block inappropriate Internet material with settings that can be adjusted remotely via a Web browser
- **Broadband Usage Meter** indicates your network's Internet traffic load
- **Automatic Quality of Service** ensures a reliable Internet connection for Web surfing, streaming audio and video, and online gaming

Coollest Feature

NETGEAR stands behind the performance and reliability of the WNR2000 and now proudly offers a lifetime hardware warranty.

NOTEWORTHY

Accessories & Services

A computer is a big investment, and now that you've taken the plunge, it's time to decide what accessories you need to go along with that shiny new purchase. We've rounded up several of our favorite must-have extras for every computer owner. Whether you have a laptop or desktop, be sure to add these items to your shopping list to complete your computing experience. **FG**



KEYBOARD

- An ergonomic design can cut down on the wrist strain associated with carpal tunnel syndrome
- Bluetooth connectivity lends itself to a tidy desk with one less wire to contend with
- A specialty model, such as a gaming or media keyboard, adds functionality to your pastime of choice



EXTERNAL HARD DRIVE

- Protect precious video and photo memories with backups
- Keep your computer running more efficiently by saving large files, such as your media collection, on an external drive



CLEANING KIT

- Specially designed cleaners will keep your LCD or plasma computer screen clean without running the risk of scratching its surface
- Cloths are often made out of low-conductivity material in order to reduce static



PRINTER

- A quality photo printer will eliminate trips to the drugstore for 4x6 prints and give you the ability to instantly share your photo memories
- An all-in-one model is the perfect addition for any busy family that needs a device that can operate as a copier, scanner, fax, and printer



USB HUB

- Offers an affordable way to connect all of your peripherals, even if you have more gadgets than USB ports
- Adds the convenience of easy USB access—no more reaching behind your computer to plug in your USB devices



MOUSE

- A wireless mouse will cut down on cable clutter at your desk while offering the convenience of portability for laptop use
- A gaming mouse can deliver better accuracy and speed for the ultimate in control
- Consider customizable buttons if you want to be able to access media, files, or programs with one-touch access



SURGE PROTECTOR

- Ensure the electrical current running to your desktop or laptop computer doesn't exceed proper levels
- Portable models will protect your laptop when you're on the go for work or play



COMPUTING SERVICES

To keep your desktop or laptop computer in tip-top shape, take advantage of the computing services offered at your local CE retailer. They can help you keep your machine running smoothly and free from the dangers that lurk online.

- Computer Setup & Networking
- Virus & Spyware Removal
- Data Backup & Recovery
- Hardware & Software Upgrades
- Training & Consultation



WEB CAM

- Bridge the gap between long-distance family and friends with online video chatting by adding a Web cam to your setup

XM SkyDock
\$119.99
www.bestbuy.com.com/siriusxm

XM SkyDock

Add Satellite Radio To Your Ride



A

any satellite radio subscriber will tell you, it's all about the music, baby. And the personalities. And the sports. The live concerts, news, comedy,

and exclusive content are a cool bonus, too. If you have an iPod touch or iPhone, you have a new way to enjoy your favorite content wherever you drive, by pairing a SIRIUS|XM Satellite Radio subscription with the XM Skydock (\$119.99; www.bestbuy.com/siriusxm).

The Sky's The Limit

The device is an easy-to-install vehicle dock for iPod touch and iPhone devices. It works through your vehicle's existing stereo, allowing you to enjoy the content you want while you drive. The XM SkyDock App, which is currently available for free download from the App Store (iPhone OS 3.0 or later required), will let you control your satellite radio listening experience.

And in addition to enjoying all of your favorite XM content, it's easy to add SIRIUS. Simply purchase The Best of SIRIUS subscription package, and you'll have access to popular programming such as Howard Stern, Martha Stewart, and more.

Need It, Tag It

The XM SkyDock simplifies the task of adding new music to your personal collection with the Just Tag It! feature. This lets you tag songs as you listen so you can purchase them directly from iTunes. The XM SkyDock also lets you access and listen to your personal music library, bookmark your favorite channels, and follow your favorite sports teams. Taking phone calls while using the XM SkyDock is as easy as tapping the screen.

Satellite To Go

To add the XM SkyDock to any vehicle, just connect the device to your

vehicle stereo via the PowerConnect FM Transmitter or the Aux In port. An Aux In port comes standard in many newer vehicles, and the device works with cassette adapters for use in older vehicles. The XM SkyDock includes a flexible stalk as well as spacers and an innovative mechanism to make sure your iPod touch or iPhone stays put and within view whether you opt to utilize the SkyDock's landscape or portrait mode. And for added convenience, the XM SkyDock will charge your iPod touch or iPhone device while docked.

The XM SkyDock delivers an amazing amount of functionality in an easy-to-use package. To see for yourself what the XM SkyDock App has to offer, you can visit www.bestbuy.com/siriusxm. **EG**

PORTABLE DEVICES

End Of The Year Bonuses

If you buy an iPod touch or iPhone with an XM SkyDock at Best Buy before the end of the year, you can get \$20 off the price of the XM SkyDock. You can also get a SIRIUS|XM Rewards Visa Prepaid Card worth up to \$100* when you subscribe to an Everything or Everything Plus The Best Of satellite programming package. Just ask for the "Rewards Visa Offer" when activating your subscription. For more information, visit www.bestbuy.com/rocknreward. ●

XM SkyDock Satellite Radio On The Go

- Easy to install and use in almost any vehicle
- Tag music as you listen to purchase from iTunes
- Charges the iPod touch and iPhone battery while docked
- Take advantage of the money-saving XM SkyDock end of year offers

*Be a new subscriber, activate any SIRIUS or XM radio by 12/31/09, with an Annual or Two-Year "Everything" or "Everything Plus The Best Of" subscription, and be eligible for up to a \$100 SIRIUS|XM Rewards Visa Prepaid Card. Activation is by phone order only and mention REWARDS VISA. Early cancellation fee for failure to maintain original Package or Plan. Complete details at www.siriusxmrewards.com. SIRIUS|XM Rewards Visa Prepaid Card offered by SIRIUS|XM and issued by MetaBank™ under license from Visa U.S.A. Inc.

FirstGlimpse

Get Where You Need To Be

Find Your GPS Companion



GPS unit can be a coveted gift for a friend or family member—or for yourself. Consider these factors before you buy.

Form Factor

GPS units come in three basic form factors: an in-dash unit mounted permanently in your dashboard; a portable unit, which resides mostly in the car but can be easily removed if you need to take it with you or use it in a different car; and a handheld device, which is designed to be carried around with you.

Buying Tips

- Consider the form factor that's best for you—in-dash, portable, or handheld.
- Make sure your GPS' screen is large enough and bright enough for your needs.
- Voice functions help you keep your eyes on the road while navigating.
- A GPS with Internet capabilities gives you real-time traffic and weather updates.
- Fitness GPS units keep track of blood pressure and heart rate.
- Marine GPS units keep you safe on the water and help you find success in fishing.
- Golf GPS units can help you improve your game.

If you plan to rely on a GPS unit solely to navigate your hometown's busy streets, an in-dash unit is ideal for you. The flexibility of using a portable device is handy if you have more than one family vehicle or if you frequently travel and would like to use your GPS in a rental car. Or, if you find yourself off the beaten path for outdoor activities, consider a handheld GPS device.

The Screen

Generally, GPS units come in a variety of sizes, but keep in mind that the form factor of your device will have a bearing on the size and type of screen a GPS will include. For example, handheld devices tend to have small, monochromatic screens, while in-dash units generally feature larger, full-color touchscreens.

Voice Functions

Many GPS devices have voice functions. When driving, you need to keep your eyes on the road, so you can rely on turn-by-turn voice directions rather than the map on the GPS' screen. Other helpful voice functions in the car include lane assist, which gives you a prompt for which lane to be in; voice recognition, which lets you speak commands to your GPS instead of typing them in; and a text-to-speech feature, where the GPS unit speaks the names of streets and destinations.

Internet Connectivity

GPS units with Internet capabilities offer an easy way to get up-to-the-minute



traffic updates, weather conditions, traffic flows, and gas prices. Having an Internet-capable GPS unit is especially ideal for when you're navigating around town and want to find the best price on fuel or the fastest route home from work, but one of its most powerful uses is to get constantly updated maps, so no matter where you are, your GPS has all of the latest information on construction, closed roads, and more.

Other Types Of GPS

When shopping for the perfect gift, keep in mind that GPS units aren't just for the car or for hiking in the mountains anymore. There are GPS units for various lifestyles that might meet the needs of someone on your list, including GPSes for boating that include charts and maps of waterways as well as fish finders; wrist-mounted GPS units for fitness that keep track of your heart rate, blood pressure, and workout schedule as well as your route; and golf GPS units that help you determine exact distances on the range as well as maps of the golf course you're playing on. Still, other GPS units are simply location devices that let others find you if you get lost in a remote area.

A GPS device can be your best friend in the car, on the trail, or on the water, so make sure you get one that suits your lifestyle best. **EG**

Give The Gift Of Music

MP3 Players For All

BY TESSA WARNER BRENNEMAN



n MP3 player is the perfect present for the music lover on your gift list. Whether your recipient is a gym rat, a frequent traveler, or someone with a massive music collection, you can find an MP3 player that matches certain lifestyle needs with all the right features.

Stellar Storage

When searching for an MP3 player, you'll have two storage options to choose from: hard drive or flash drive. Those who want a lot of entertainment options at their fingertips will benefit most from an MP3 player with a hard drive. These offer 16GB or more of storage space. Unlike a flash drive player, this type of device is ideal for people who want to carry around a large amount of content, such as movies, TV shows, and sizeable music collections. However, hard drives contain delicate moving parts, so if you accidentally drop

or bump your player, it's more susceptible to damage. Additionally, the construction of a hard drive-based MP3 player makes it larger than a flash drive player.

Music In A Flash

Flash-based players are more durable, smaller, and lighter than hard drive-based MP3 players because flash memory doesn't utilize small moving parts. They can be worn comfortably during a jog or workout, and they make a great companion for anyone with an active lifestyle. Flash players can store 16GB of content or less, so they may not be well-suited for those who want to carry large media collections.

Battery Life

Think about how often your gift recipient will want to use her MP3 player, and you will be able to determine the amount of battery life you should look for. For someone who takes many road trips or flights, look for a device with a battery life longer than 15 hours. Those who can charge their device more frequently, such as a student who often heads back to the dorms multiple times during the day, can get away with a shorter battery life.

It's also important to note that an MP3 player's listed battery life is only an approximation. The different types of content you can play on an MP3 player will deplete a battery at varying rates. For example, playing video files will use more battery power than music files.



More To Consider

Some of today's MP3 players can play back photos, videos, FM radio, and other content while you're on the go. Not all MP3 players carry these capabilities, so be sure you find a model that offers the media compatibility you want. For example, an MP3 player with an integrated FM tuner will let you listen to FM radio stations, and sometimes that same tuner will grant you access to satellite and HD Radio. Players that have Wi-Fi compatibility will greatly expand your multimedia options, thanks to TV show, movie, and music downloads from the Web. This feature could be beneficial for frequent travelers who can access and download new content whenever they come across a Wi-Fi hotspot.

A Pocketable Present

With so many different MP3 player options to complement different lifestyles, an MP3 player is a no-fail gift for anyone on your list. **FC**

MP3 Player Bits & Bytes

- Hard drive-based MP3 players are best for storing large amounts of content.
- Flash-based players are ideal for those with an active lifestyle.
- For lengthy trips, find a device with a battery life longer than 15 hours.
- Consider which types of files the player will support and other features the player offers before making your final decision.

Remote Car Starters & Keyless Entry Systems

Turbocharge Your Keychain

Some car accessories are for entertainment, such as car stereos. But other accessories add convenience—so much so that you'll never want a vehicle without them. Let's look at a couple.

Remote Car Starters

If you park outdoors instead of in a garage, you probably spend many of your winter mornings cleaning off your car windows before you can drive to work.

This is the ideal situation for a remote vehicle starter, which is a small remote control that lets you start your car's engine from a distance. And if you leave your car's defroster or heater on when you switch off the ignition, it will be ready to do its job the next morning when you wirelessly start the engine. As you may know, it's much easier to wipe ice from a warm windshield than it is to chip away at it in subfreezing temperatures.

Even if it doesn't snow much where you live, it's nice to let your car's engine and passenger compartment warm up before you get in. And in the dog days of summer, a few minutes of air conditioning can make your vehicle much more comfortable to hop into.

You'll find remote start systems selling for less than \$200 to more than \$400, depending on their features. More advanced units come with extras such as theft alarms and security features,



two-way operation (which lets you know if your car started), a longer wireless range, and more. Most remote starters also have wireless signal safeguards, such as automatically changing access keys, to help keep your car from being started by anyone else's remote.

Keyless Entry Systems

When your arms are full of groceries, the last thing you want to do is to try to turn a key in your car door's lock. It's much easier to unlock your door or doors by simply pressing a button on a remote. A keyless entry system gives you such a remote, usually in a fob you can attach to your keychain.

You can add this feature to almost any vehicle for around \$150 to \$400. Some keyless entry units let you open your trunk, too. And many have a "panic" button that honks the car's horn and flashes its lights.

Note that unless you're very familiar with your car's electrical system, not to mention handy with tools, it's highly recommended to have your remote starter and/or keyless entry system installed by professionals. A proper installation will not only give you trouble-free operation but also better resale value for your vehicle. **FC**

BY MARTY SEMS

Starting Points

- A remote start system can warm up or cool your car before you get in.
- A keyless entry system can unlock your door(s), pop your trunk, and more.
- High-end models do all of the above and then some.
- Let the pros do the installation for best results.

FirstGlimpse

Essential

THINGS TO KNOW

SPORTS GPSES

Q What is a sports GPS?

A These devices provide you with specific location-based information related to a certain sport, such as cycling, hiking, hunting, golfing, running, fishing, geocaching, and all-around fitness and outdoor use.

Q Who can take advantage of a sports GPS?

A You don't have to be a fitness guru to use a sports GPS device. Anyone who enjoys the outdoors and staying active can benefit from one.

Q What different sports GPS designs are available?

A Sports GPSES are available as wrist watches; handheld devices; or as clip-ons for your bicycle, boat, or belt.

Q What is geocaching?

A A sport where players hide an object somewhere outdoors and then post the location coordinates on a geocaching Web site for other players to find with a GPS device.

Q What can I do with a fitness GPS device?

A You can track burned calories, distance, speed, time, and heart rate. Routes and directions are also available.

Q What features are included with a hiking GPS?

A Features include electronic compasses, location information, logs, weather updates, and a high-sensitivity receiver.

Q How can a sports GPS help me while I'm fishing?

A Fishfinder GPS devices use sonar to track down fish. They also provide water depth, water temperature, route planning, and marine mapping capabilities. Like marine GPSES, these devices generally clip onto your boat.

Q What information will a golf GPS provide?

A Shot distances, distances to the green, course maps, and course information are generally available on all golf GPSES. Most of these devices are also weather-resistant.

Q Can sports GPSES connect to my computer?

A Yes. You can get route updates and log the information from your last workout or hiking trip. PC connections also let you download new maps and add other information to your device.

Q What is a tracking or safety GPS?

A These GPSES help you pinpoint your location and show you how to return to your starting point. They also let you send your coordinates to others in case of an emergency.

Q What GPS features do I need for hunting?

A Handheld GPS devices offer a hunting calendar, sun and moon information, barometric information for weather updates, and a track log, which are all useful features for hunters.



Which MP3 Player Is Best For You?

Pods are cool, sure, but you have other choices when it comes to listening to your tunes. This chart compares the most important—and coolest—features from select MP3 players.

		Memory type	Capacities	Songs	Video; FM tuner capabilities	Colors	Battery life
What It Means		Hard drive (moving parts, more capacity) or flash (no moving parts)	How much memory the player has	Based on four-minute songs at 128Kbps, the number a player can hold	Some MP3 players can play video or let you listen to radio stations	Several players offer a variety of color choices	How long the battery will last when playing music
	SanDisk Sansa Clip+ MSRP: \$39.99*; \$49.99* SKU 9448564	Flash	2GB; 4GB	500; 1,000	No; Yes	Black, red, blue	15 hours
	Apple iPod shuffle MSRP: \$59*; \$79* SKU 9229765	Flash	2GB; 4GB	500; 1,000 (AAC)	Neither	Black, silver, pink, green, blue	10 hours
	SanDisk Sansa Fuze MSRP: \$69.99*; \$79.99*; \$99.99* SKU 8753789	Flash	2GB; 4GB; 8GB	500; 1,000; 2,000	Both	Black, blue, red, silver	24 hours
	Sony E Series Walkman MSRP: \$79.99* SKU 9443792	Flash	8GB	N/A	Both	Black	30 hours
	Sony S Series Walkman MSRP: \$109.95*; \$129.95* SKU 9443845	Flash	8GB; 16GB	N/A	Both	Black, pink, violet, red	42 hours
	Apple iPod nano MSRP: \$149*; \$179* SKU 9416376	Flash	8GB; 16GB	2,000; 4,000 (AAC)	Both	Pink, orange, green, blue, purple, black, silver	24 hours
	Apple iPod touch MSRP: \$199*; \$299*; \$399* SKU 8771732	Flash	8GB; 32GB; 64GB	1,750; 7,000; 14,000 (AAC)	Yes; No	Black	30 hours
	Microsoft Zune MSRP: \$219.99*; \$289.99* SKU 9449581	Flash	16GB; 32GB	4,000; 8,000	Both	Black, silver	33 hours

*Prices listed in this issue are for general reference and may vary from retailer pricing.

Which GPS Device Is Right For You?

One of the hottest CE devices around right now is a GPS, and what a useful device it is, too. Here, we compare some models available on today's market. All of these units come with maps already loaded, and you can purchase additional maps, as well.

		Screen size; Dimensions	Text-to- speech; Traffic receiver	Preloaded maps	WAAS	Bluetooth; MP3 play- back	Included charging adapters
	What It Means	The diagonal measurement of the screen; height x width x depth	Unit calls out specific street names; unit receives traffic updates and re-routes accordingly	The regional maps that come included with the GPS unit	A satellite and ground station system that gives exceptional GPS accuracy	Some units communicate wirelessly with other Bluetooth devices or play MP3s	AC adapters plug into the wall; DC adapters plug into your car's cigarette lighter
	Insignia NS-NAV01 MSRP: \$99.99* SKU 9351603	4.3 inches; 3.1x4.7x0.6 inches	Yes; No	Entire U.S.	Yes	No; No	DC adapter
	Nextar 43LT MSRP: \$139.99* SKU 9301052	4.3 inches; 3x4.6x0.8 inches	Yes; Yes	Entire U.S.	No	No; Yes	DC adapter
	Magellan SE4 MSRP: \$179.99* SKU 9556303	4.3 inches; 3.2x4.8x0.7 inches	Yes; Yes (with optional Traffic Link receiver)	Entire U.S. (including Puerto Rico)	Yes	No; No	DC adapter
	Garmin nüvi 205W MSRP: \$189.99* SKU 9470556	4.3 inches; 2.9x4.8x0.8 inches	No; No	Entire U.S. (including Puerto Rico) and Canada	Yes	No; No	DC adapter
	Magellan RoadMate 1445T MSRP: \$199.99* SKU 9536424	4.3 inches; 3.3x4.6x0.6 inches	Yes; Yes	Entire U.S. (including Puerto Rico) and Canada	Yes	No; No	DC adapter
	Insignia NS-CNV43 MSRP: \$199.99* SKU 9366116	4.3 inches; 3.2x4.8x0.7 inches	Yes; Yes	Entire U.S.	Yes	Yes; No	DC adapter
	TomTom XXL 540-S MSRP: \$299.95* SKU 9555037	5 inches; 3.2x5.2x1 inches	Yes; Yes (with optional traffic receiver)	Entire U.S. (including Puerto Rico) and Canada	No	No; No	DC adapter
	TomTom GO 740 LIVE MSRP: \$369.95* SKU 9263281	4.3 inches; 3.4x5x0.9 inches	Yes; Yes	Entire U.S. (including Puerto Rico) and Canada	No	Yes; No	DC adapter

*Prices listed in this issue are for general reference and may vary from retailer pricing.

Hit The Road With A TomTom GPS



TomTom believes that personal navigation should be as easy and safe as possible. They develop smart technology that gives you straightforward solutions and innovations that to make life easy including their exclusive TomTom Map Share™ and IQ Routes™ features.

Plus, get LIVE services* including traffic, weather, local search powered by Google and more with TomTom's connected devices.

Product Name SKU	ONE 130/ 130-S 8774463 8774427	ONE 140-S 9263254	XL 330-S Bundle 9315902	XL 340-S 9263263	XXL 540-S 9988038	GO 730 8774533	XL 340-S LIVE 9988035	GO 740 LIVE 9263281
MSRP	\$129.99** / \$149.99**	\$199.99**	\$229.99**	\$249.99**	\$299.99**	\$349.99**	Connected Device 299.99**	Connected Device \$399.99**
Touchscreen Size	3.5-inch	3.5-inch	4.3-inch	4.3-inch	5-inch	4.3-inch	4.3-inch	4.3-inch
Preloaded Maps	United States, Canada	United States, Canada, Mexico	United States, Canada	United States, Canada, Mexico	United States, Canada, Mexico	United States, Canada	United States, Canada, Mexico	United States, Canada
Fold & Go EasyPort™ Mount	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No
Spoken Street Names	Only avail- able on the ONE 130-S	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
30-Day Latest Map Guarantee	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Plug & Go	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
TomTom Map Share™	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
IQ Routes™	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Advanced Lane Guidance	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Extras	Preloaded Points of Interest	7 million Points of Interest	Bundle in- cludes carry case and home charger. Preloaded Points of Interest	7 million Points of Interest	7 million Points of Interest	Preloaded Points of Interest, Bluetooth® Hands-free Calling, Voice Address Input	LIVE Services*, 7 million Points of Interest	LIVE Services*, Unlimited Points of Interest, Blue- tooth® Hands- free Calling, Voice Address Input, Voice Recognition

* 3 months included with purchase

** Prices listed in this issue are for general reference and may vary from retailer pricing.

FirstGlimpse



Satellite Radio

A New Way To Take Your Favorite Entertainment With You



SIRIUS Stiletto 2 Portable Satellite Radio

MSRP: \$169.99

SKU: 8545381

www.bestbuy.com/siriusxm

Quick Overview

This portable Satellite Radio can connect to SIRIUS Internet Radio via Wi-Fi and lets you schedule and record up to 100 hours of your favorite SIRIUS|XM music, shows, or programs. The Stiletto 2 also features a microSD memory card slot to let you load and play music from your personal music collection. Earbuds, a head-set antenna, PC cable, battery, power adapter, and My SIRIUS Studio software are included.

Perfect For

People looking for a portable device that expands their music options beyond the music stored on their PC.

Outstanding Benefits

- **Hear it-Love it:** Easily store up to 10 hours of individual songs at the touch of the "Love" button.
- **Don't miss a beat:** Pause, rewind, and replay up to 60 minutes of live radio.
- **Bookmark** your favorite songs to buy using a compatible online music service.
- **Large full-color display** to view channel, artist and song information.
- **Sports Alert** function for tracking scores and a personalized sports ticker are perfect for sports nuts.
- **My SIRIUS Studio software** helps you manage your music.

Coollest Feature

The Stiletto 2 can store up to 100 hours of your favorite satellite radio programming, so you'll always have something to listen to, even if you don't have live satellite coverage.



Personal Television

Take Mobile TV Anywhere Life Takes You



FLO TV™ Personal Television

MSRP: \$249.99 (inc. subscription*)

SKU: 9548279

www.flotv.com

Quick Overview

With the FLO TV™ Personal Television and a subscription to the FLO TV™ service, you can watch shows you love on channels like CBS Mobile, CNBC, Comedy Central, MSNBC, MTV, NBC 2Go, and Nickelodeon. So at the touch of a button, you can instantly tune in. To see if FLO TV service is available in your area, visit www.flotv.com/maps. For a limited time, purchase the FLO TV™ Personal Television for \$249.99 and enjoy 6 months of prepaid subscription service.* That's almost \$90 off the regular service price.

Perfect For

Those who want to stay connected, entertained, and informed—without having to stay home.

Outstanding Benefits

- 3.5-inch touchscreen display is the perfect size for watchability and portability.
- Variety of 24/7 programming from top networks.
- Integrated stereo speakers and built-in adjustable stand mean hands-free viewing.
- Designed with mobility in mind, everything is at the touch of a button.
- On-screen Program Guide and one-touch channel changing make it easy to find and watch shows.
- Restrict individual shows or entire channels with Parental Controls.

Coollest Feature

With a subscription to the FLO TV™ service, you have live sports, breaking news, hit shows, and kids' programming all at the touch of a button or the swipe of a touchscreen.

*Taxes not included. Additional fees and charges may apply. Pricing and service subject to change at any time. Service must be activated between 11/1/09 and 3/31/10 and requires subscription. After six months' service, your credit card will automatically be charged the then-current monthly subscription rate. Special offer expires 3/31/10. Service not available everywhere. All programming subject to change. All sports programming subject to blackout restrictions. ©2009 FLO TV Incorporated, a Qualcomm company. All rights reserved. FLO and FLO TV are trademarks of Qualcomm Incorporated. All other trademarks are the property of their respective owners.

Find Your Web Connection

Different Methods To Access The Internet



With so many services to offer, the Internet is quickly transforming from an information epicenter to an entertainment extravaganza. And with a few devices and the right Internet services, you can take advantage of all of this and more from anywhere.

Wi-Fi On The Go

You can access the Internet at home via your wireless router, so you can catch up on email, current events, and social networking sites, or you can stream content to your HDTV, video-game console, or media streaming device. Likewise, you can access the Internet while you're out and about by finding a Wi-Fi hotspot.

A Wi-Fi hotspot is simply a wireless Internet connection provided for use at a public or business location. Sometimes you can access them for free, but often you must log in to a Web site to purchase access. Once that's set up, any equipment you have with Wi-Fi hardware built in can

use the Internet just as you would on your wireless network at home.

However, don't limit your thinking to laptops when considering how to access the Web on the road. Many cell phones, PDAs, portable gaming devices, cameras, and digital music players have wireless networking hardware built right in, which will let you stream and buy videos and music, as well as remotely access photos stored on the Web or share them with others. Plus, their small screens mean that even standard-definition video looks as sharp as possible.

Get Connected With 3G

Another way to access the Internet on the go is via a cellular provider's 3G or other high-speed data service. This won't be as fast as a good Wi-Fi connection, but it's perfect for browsing the Web on a smartphone, checking email, downloading small apps, or performing other light Internet tasks. Internet-enabled GPS units also use 3G connections to receive information from the



Web, keeping you abreast on the latest traffic, weather, and other updates.

Some cellular service providers also have hardware that lets you create your own portable wireless hotspot so all your Internet-enabled devices can access the Internet wherever you have cell coverage. This has all the same benefits of the Wi-Fi hotspots discussed earlier, but it follows you around instead of limiting you to a fixed location.

Most cell phones and all smartphones can benefit from 3G connectivity, and you can also purchase mobile broadband cards for use in netbooks or laptops. Some providers also offer tethering services that let you connect a 3G-enabled phone to a laptop and use the phone's Internet access to browse the Web on the computer. **FG**

BY TRACY BAKER

The Internet Wherever You Are

- Get a portable device with wireless networking hardware to access the Web, download multimedia, and share pictures with others.
- Find a Wi-Fi hotspot to get connected while on the go.
- Sign up for a 3G data plan from your cellular provider so you can access the Internet and all of its content.

FirstGlimpse

Essential

THINGS TO KNOW

NONTRADITIONAL GAME CONSOLE USES

Q Can I store photos and music on my gaming console?

A Yes: Some of the latest gaming consoles include a hard drive of around 100GB, which is about the same size as an average PC hard drive. This means you should be able to store a sizable photo and music collection on your console.

Q How do I watch movies on my gaming console?

A Most consoles feature either a Blu-ray Disc or a DVD player, letting you watch HD or SD video. Or, you can stream movies from an online service via Wi-Fi connection.

Q What do I need to gain access to online services from a game console?

A Some consoles include free access to features such as online chatting, game demos, HD movies, TV shows, and live games. Others require a one-time, monthly, or yearly Web access fee.

Q What types of inputs are included on gaming consoles?

A Depending on the console, you'll find USB 2.0 ports and memory card readers. These are best for transferring digital photos and other files directly to your console.

Q How can I use a microphone with my gaming console?

A If you purchase a hands-free microphone for your gaming console, you can verbally communicate with friends even when they're far away.

Q What will my console's media extender feature do?

A This will give you access to the media stored on your PC by streaming it to your home theater via your home network.

Q Can my gaming console remotely communicate with other consoles?

A Yes, you can interact with other consoles via wireless connections. This technology lets you connect to on-line social forums and download digital media.

Q What types of educational games can I use on my gaming console?

A You'll find many educational games that are designed specifically for teaching children skills such as addition, subtraction, and color identification. Adults can play challenging games with puzzles that provoke creative reasoning.

Q How do aerobic-based console games help me exercise?

A Purchasing a gaming console and compatible games with sports-oriented controllers will give you the option to create your own workout routines and do in-home aerobics. You can also buy accessory kits that include fitness mats, weight sets, and/or step boards.

Q Are there specific types of controller accessories available for nontraditional games?





A Yes. Some of the accessories you can add are nunchuk controllers, tennis rackets, skateboards, and more. Most of these are compatible with specific game packs.



Which Gaming System Is Best For You?

Game consoles and portable devices are no longer limited to gameplay. They can also access the Internet, download media, and play your favorite DVDs or CDs. To help you find a gaming device that will suit you well, here's a comparison of the most popular selections you can find at your local CE retailer.

at your local CE retailer.

		Hard drive size	Compatible memory cards	Optical drive	Video resolution output	Ports	
	What It Means	How much data the system can hold	Cards that will let you save and off-load data, such as game saves or personal media	Aside from game discs, other playable media formats	Highest number of video pixels that are sent to a TV or portable console screen	Hookups for controllers as well as video and audio outputs	
Console Devices		Sony PlayStation 3 Slim (120GB) MSRP: \$299.99* SKU 9476952	120GB 2.5-inch Serial ATA	PlayStation and PlayStation 2 cards with USB memory card adapter (not included)	CD-RW/DVD-RW/BD-RW	1,920 x 1,080	1 Ethernet, 1 A/V, 1 Optical digital audio, 2 USB, 1 HDMI
		Nintendo Wii MSRP: \$199.99* SKU 8008559	512MB	SD/Nintendo GameCube Memory Card	Can only play game titles	720 x 480	4 controller, 1 Component, 1 Composite, 1 S-Video, 2 USB
		Microsoft Xbox 360 Elite MSRP: \$299.99* SKU 8301492	120GB	Xbox 360 Memory Unit	CD-RW/DVD±RW	1,920 x 1,080	1 A/V cable, 3 USB, 1 Ethernet, 1 HDMI, 4 controller
Portable Devices		Nintendo DSi MSRP: \$169.99* SKU 9249725 (blue)	256MB	SD	None	Dual 256 x 192	1 headphone, 1 microphone
		Nintendo DS Lite MSRP: \$129.99* SKU 8566312	None	None	None	Dual 256 x 192	1 headphone, 1 microphone
		Sony PlayStation PSP go MSRP: \$249.99* SKU 9459659	16GB flash memory	Memory Stick Micro	None; download to internal and removable memory only	480 x 272	1 USB, 1 headphone
		Sony PlayStation Portable 3000 MSRP: \$169.99* SKU 9175082	64MB	Memory Stick Duo/Memory Stick Pro Duo	UMD (Universal Media Disc)	480 x 272	1 video out/headset, 1 USB, 1 DC out

*Prices listed in this issue are for general reference and may vary from retailer pricing.

	Online community	Wi-Fi access; Media streaming	Parental controls	Compatible game formats	Included accessories & services	Available accessories	Controllers	Perfect for
	Web site membership for downloads, upgrades, and more	Access the Internet without a cable hookup; Send and receive media wirelessly	Help parents decide what content their kids can or cannot access	Game titles that can be played on the game system	Accessories included with the console	Extras that can help enhance your gameplay	Included controllers; wired/wireless controller compatibility	Who can benefit from the special features the gaming system offers
	Yes, free PlayStation Network membership	Yes, 802.11b/g; Yes	Options available for PS3 games on PS Network, BDs, DVDs, and Internet	Sony PlayStation 3 titles and select PlayStation titles	DualShock 3 wireless controller, USB cable, PlayStation Network membership	Blu-ray remote, Bluetooth headset, memory card adapter, wireless keypad	Includes 1 DualShock 3 wireless controller; wireless	Someone who wants the value of a full gaming system with a BD player and media streaming
	Yes, various paid and free Wii Channels are available	Yes, 802.11b/g; Yes	Options available for Wii titles, online interaction, downloads, user-created content, and more	Nintendo GameCube and Wii titles	Wii remote and nunchuck, sensor bar, Wii Sports, console stand, A/V cable, adapter	Wireless Wii remote, wheel, and classic (wired) controllers; wireless sensor bar	Includes 1 wireless Wii remote and nunchuck; Both (some titles require a wired remote)	Gamers of any age who want a unique wireless gaming experience that requires little gaming knowledge
	Yes, free Xbox Live Silver membership with one month free Xbox Live Gold	Only a wired Internet connection is included (wireless networking adapter available); Yes	Options available for Xbox titles, DVDs, and Xbox LIVE interaction	Microsoft Xbox and Xbox 360 titles	Wireless controller, wired headset, two blockbuster games, Netflix subscription trial	Wireless headset, hard drive, wired and wireless controllers, wireless networking adapter	Includes 1 wireless controller; Both	Those who want to play games in true HD with full theatrical sound and plenty of hard drive space
	DSiWare (DSi online store)	Yes, 802.11; Yes	Available for Nintendo DSi content	Nintendo DSi and Nintendo DS titles	AC adapter, 2 styli	Audio headset, battery power pack, screen protectors, carrying cases, styli	N/A	Users who want a handheld gaming system that lets them take, personalize, and share photos
	Yes, free Nintendo Wi-Fi connection	Yes, 802.11b; No	No	Nintendo DS and Game Boy Advance titles	AC adapter, cartridge slot cover, stylus	Cases, AC adapter, headphones with microphone, styli, cartridge case	N/A	Anyone who will appreciate dual touchscreens and voice-controlled gaming
	Yes, PlayStation Network	Yes, 802.11b; Yes	Yes	Available via downloads from PlayStation store	AC adapter, USB cable, Media Go software, Rock Band Unplugged Lite voucher	Protective screen film, cradle, headphones, memory cards, cases	N/A	Those who need a bigger screen for their gaming, Internet, and media entertainment
	Yes, free PlayStation Network membership	Yes, 802.11b; No	Options available for UMDs, Internet, and video downloads	PlayStation Portable titles	AC adapter, AC power cord, battery pack, video rental through PlayStation Network	Battery charger, travel case, memory cards, A/V cable, AC adapter, car adapter	N/A	Those who want to enjoy gaming as well as movies, photos, and music when they're on the go



500 Days of Summer

Rating: R • Format: Blu-ray Disc



RELEASE DATE:
12/22/2009

MSRP: \$39.99*
SKU: 9576639



Lost: Complete Fifth Season

Format: Blu-ray Disc



RELEASE DATE:
12/8/2009

MSRP: \$79.99*
SKU: 9325465



G-Force

Rating: PG • Format: Blu-ray Disc



RELEASE DATE:
12/15/2009

MSRP: \$29.99*
SKU: 9636055



This Month's Blu-ray Disc Releases

December 1 to 7

- "A Christmas Tale" • \$39.95* • SKU: 9633243
- "Ben 10: Alien Swarm" • \$24.99* • SKU: 9641435
- "Deadline" • \$16.99* • SKU: 9596582
- "Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels" • \$24.99* • SKU: 9616652
- "Mask Of Zorro" • \$19.99* • SKU: 9628241
- "Night At The Museum: Battle Of The Smithsonian" • \$39.99* • SKU: 9488789
- "Paper Heart" • \$39.98* • SKU: 9589796
- "Ride Around The World" • \$24.98* • SKU: 18156594
- "Secondhand Lions" • \$24.99* • SKU: 9641339
- "Snatch" • \$22.99* • SKU: 9566999
- "Terminator Salvation" • \$35.99* • SKU: 9609607
- "The Rolling Stones: Gimme Shelter" • \$29.99* • SKU: 9633561

December 8 to 14

- "AC/DC: No Bull" • \$24.98* • SKU: 9629064
- "Coraline" • \$69.98* • SKU: 9616698
- "Cyclops" • \$17.98* • SKU: 18232789
- "Freakydog" • \$17.98* • SKU: 18232752

- "Harry Potter & The Chamber Of Secrets" • \$34.99* • SKU: 9615292
- "Harry Potter & The Half-Blood Prince" • \$16.99* • SKU: 9615177
- "Harry Potter & The Sorcerer's Stone" • \$34.99* • SKU: 9615186
- "Harry Potter Years 1-6" • \$109.99* • SKU: 9615317
- "Jack Brooks: Monster Slayer" • \$17.98* • SKU: 9628117
- "Jay Johnson's Boot Camp Fitness: Ultimate Body, Vol. 1" • \$19.98* • SKU: 18216538
- "Julie & Julia" • \$27.99* • SKU: 9634767
- "Knut & Friends" • \$17.99* • SKU: 18157307
- "Lost: Complete Fifth Season" • \$79.99* • SKU: 9325465
- "Lower Learning" • \$17.98* • SKU: 18232761
- "Public Enemies" • \$23.99* • SKU: 9616816
- "Sands Of Oblivion" • \$17.98* • SKU: 18232887
- "Rush R30: 30th Anniversary Tour" • \$24.98* • SKU: 9565384
- "The Alphabet Killer" • \$17.98* • SKU: 9628126
- "The Lost Treasure Of The Grand Canyon" • \$17.98* • SKU: 18232627
- "Walled In" • \$17.98* • SKU: 9628108
- "While She Was Out" • \$17.98* • SKU: 18232645
- "World's Greatest Dad" • \$34.98* • SKU: 18217494

*Prices listed in this issue are for general reference and may vary from retailer pricing.



Julie & Julia

Rating: PG-13 • Format: Blu-ray Disc



RELEASE DATE:
12/8/2009

MSRP: \$27.99*
SKU: 9634767



Star Trek: Original Series Season 3

Format: Blu-ray Disc



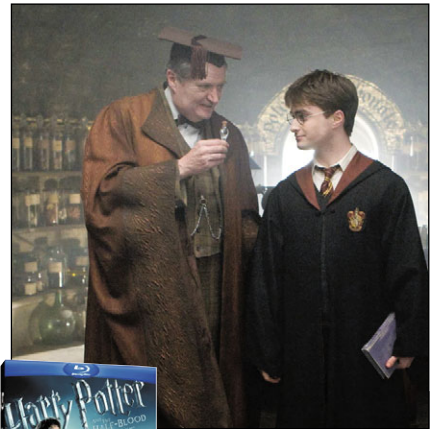
RELEASE DATE:
12/15/2009

MSRP: \$79.99*
SKU: 9594708



Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince

Rating: PG • Format: Blu-ray Disc



RELEASE DATE:
12/8/2009

MSRP: \$18.99*
SKU: 9615177

December 15 to 21

- "Basilisk: Complete Series" • \$69.98* • SKU: 18233332
- "G-Force" • \$27.99* • SKU: 9636055
- "HD Moods: Blu Ocean" • \$17.99* • SKU: 18250303
- "IngLOURious Basterds" • \$39.98* • SKU: 9616843
- "La Bohème" • \$44.99* • SKU: 18217289
- "Mel Brooks Collection" • \$109.99* • SKU: 9633395
- "MLB: 2009 World Series" • \$29.99* • SKU: 18267903
- "P" • \$29.99* • SKU: 18234979
- "Samurai Champloo: Complete Series" • \$89.99* • SKU: 18233181
- "Star Trek: Original Series Season 3" • \$79.99* • SKU: 9594708
- "Star Trek: Original Series Three Season Pack" • \$321.99* • SKU: 18219688
- "Taking Woodstock" • \$29.99* • SKU: 9616643
- "The Butcher" • \$29.99* • SKU: 18235244
- "The Hangover" • \$35.99* • SKU: 9615131
- "The Other Man" • \$35.98* • SKU: 18157147

December 22 to 28

- "500 Days Of Summer" • \$39.99* • SKU: 9576639

- "All About Steve" • \$39.99* • SKU: 9576666
- "American Pie Presents: The Book Of Love" • \$36.98* • SKU: 9629774
- "Beyond A Reasonable Doubt" • \$29.98* • SKU: 9589689
- "Extract" • \$39.99* • SKU: 9636028
- "Family Guy: Something, Something, Something Darkside" • \$18.99* • SKU: 9543498
- "Ichi" • \$34.98* • SKU: 18233216
- "It Might Get Loud" • \$37.95* • SKU: 18241669
- "Staten Island" • \$24.98* • SKU: 18214861

December 29 to January 2

- "9" • \$39.98* • SKU: 9657749
- "A Perfect Getaway" • \$39.98* • SKU: 9616798
- "District 9" • \$29.99* • SKU: 9640876
- "Moon" • \$37.95* • SKU: 18253558
- "The Marine 2" • \$39.98* • SKU: 9576675
- "Time Warp: Season 2" • \$29.98* • SKU: 18215496
- "Versus" • \$29.95* • SKU: 18151973

ESRB Game Ratings & Descriptions

Find Material That's Appropriate For Your Kids

ESRB (Entertainment Software Rating Board) Ratings

In order for parents to select gaming software appropriate for their children, ESRB (www.esrb.org) ratings are listed on the front and back of most game packages to provide concise and impartial details about a title's content.



Early Childhood. Titles with this rating have content that may be suitable for children ages three and older. These software titles contain no material that parents would find inappropriate.



Everyone. Titles with this rating have content that may be suitable for children ages six and older. Games in this category may contain minimal cartoon, fantasy, or mild violence and infrequent use of mild language.



Everyone 10+. Titles with this rating have content that may be suitable for children ages 10 and older. Games in this category may contain more cartoon, fantasy, or mild violence and language as well as minimal suggestive themes.



Teen. Titles with this rating have content that may be suitable for children ages 13 and older. Titles in this category may contain violence, suggestive themes, crude humor, minimal blood, simulated gambling, or infrequent use of strong language.

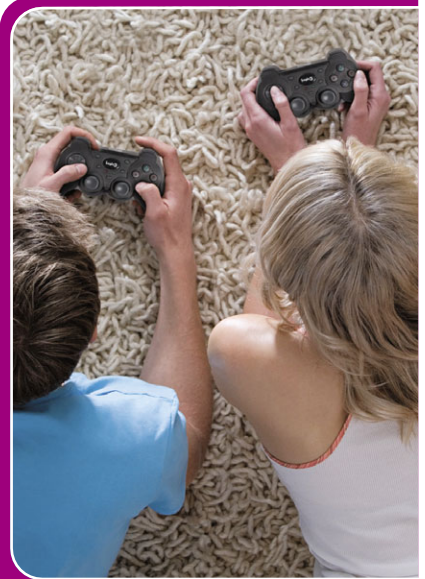


Mature. Titles with this rating have content that may be suitable for persons ages 17 and older. Games in this category may contain intense violence, blood and gore, sexual content, or strong language.



Adults Only. Titles with this rating have content that is only suitable for persons 18 years and older. Games in this category may include prolonged scenes of intense violence, graphic sexual content, or nudity.

For additional information, ESRB ratings on the back of game packages include content descriptions and depictions.



Gaming Tips For Parents

Aside from checking a game's ESRB ratings, there are other ways you can ensure the games your youngsters are playing are age appropriate.

- Carefully look at everything on a title's packaging, including the game graphics.
- Find game reviews, screen shots, or demos to get a better idea of a game's content.
- If available, use the game's parental controls to restrict inappropriate content.
- Learn about games by talking to other parents and older children who are familiar with or have played certain titles.
- Participate in your children's gaming and discuss their games as much as possible.
- Be aware of nonrated ESRB material a game may contain. "Mods" are program downloads that can alter a game's content, and online games often have live player chats as well as other user-generated content.

NOTEWORTHY

Accessories & Services

The gaming experience goes beyond the game itself—you need the right console peripherals and the best just-in-case services. We've compiled a list of some of the must-have accessories that will only enhance your gameplay, so be sure to remember these items on the next trip to your local CE retailer. **EG**



RACING WHEELS

- A gaming steering wheel puts the virtual racing experience directly in your hands
- A comfortable, accurate wheel should give you more control with turns, braking, and acceleration
- Be sure to purchase a racing wheel that's compatible with your particular gaming console



USB DEVICES

- A USB media hub featuring a memory card reader will let you connect other USB devices (including MP3 players and portable gaming devices) to your game console
- Use a USB rechargeable battery pack to charge the Li-Ion battery for guitar controllers



GAMING KEYBOARD

- Adding a keyboard can help game efficiency—type in text codes and chat with other players quickly
- Look for a model with a touchpad so you can easily scroll around the game display
- Models that offer hot keys will enable you to quickly perform gaming tasks, such as gaming actions



MUSIC CONTROLLER ACCESSORIES

- Add a heavy-duty bass pedal to your gaming drum set to replace your standard pedal
- A tripod microphone stand will make your song-based games more true-to-life
- Extra cymbals for your rock drum kit will give you more freedom to express musical ability



EXTERNAL MEMORY

- External hard drives, USB drives, or memory cards back up your in-progress games
- When additional memory is connected to live (on-line) games, you can save gaming content and downloads
- The more memory you have, the more games and downloads you'll be able to store



HEADSETS

- Use a hands-free headset to enhance your gaming experience by planning strategies aloud with your team
- A Bluetooth 2.0 headset is designed to communicate with your gaming console; Bluetooth headsets will be compatible with most game consoles
- Consider noise-canceling headsets with echo-minimizing microphones so you can hear and be heard clearly



WIRELESS CONTROLLER

- Bluetooth technology lets you play while also having the freedom to move around
- Some controllers use traditional AAA batteries to sustain your playing time
- Find the best design for your grip: ergonomic or traditional



GAMING SERVICES

Your local CE retailer provides some helpful services, both in-home and in-store, to enhance your gaming console. Specifically, the professionals can set up online connections, install system updates, and transfer data to a gaming storage device.

- Online account configuration
- Console system updates
- Stream media from a PC to a gaming console
- Connect a console to a home-theater center

BLUETOOTH CAR KITS



Juggling is only fun at the circus or at a child's birthday party—not in the car. Yet, between on-the-go meals and tending to kids in the backseat, many of us find ourselves with one too few hands when driving. When the cell phone rings, you want to answer it but know that it's just one thing too many.

Plenty of us already utilize Bluetooth headsets to free up our hands when we're working around the home or office, getting phone instructions on how to fix the car (while underneath it) from your mechanic cousin, or wrangling your two golden

retrievers while talking to your brother on the phone.

But Bluetooth car kits take the idea of hands-free freedom to a new level.

How It Works

One defining feature of Bluetooth car kits is that they use the car's stereo system as a speaker instead of a small headset. The kit will also include a microphone, so you can just speak calling commands (in some cases) or have conversations without holding your phone up to your ear and mouth; it's similar to a speakerphone in this way, but it's integrated with your car.

Otherwise, the technology is identical to any other Bluetooth device: When you bring your mobile phone within range of the car kit, the devices make a wireless connection via Bluetooth and presto—hands-free bliss.

Bluetooth car kits come in a variety of shapes and sizes; some clip onto the car's sun visor, some are mounted on the dashboard or windshield, and others can be professionally installed into the dashboard like a stereo. Therefore, some kits are easily removable if you want to transfer them to a different vehicle, and some are permanently installed. Many car kits are small and inconspicuous, taking up

Jabra's SP200 In-Car Speakerphone

If you plan on using your phone while driving, it's best to find a Bluetooth car kit that is easy to use, such as Jabra's SP200 in-car speakerphone (\$59.95; www.jabra.com). With a unique volume scroll wheel and a single large button to answer and end phone calls, you won't put your driving safety at risk by fumbling around with this car kit's functions. And, the Jabra SP200 doesn't require a complicated setup; after you charge the device, simply slide its clip on your car's sun visor and you're ready to go.

With a talk time of up to 10 hours and 550 hours of standby time, the SP200 can handle your calling demands without needing an additional charge for long periods of time. Once your battery needs to be refreshed, the SP200's included USB cable and car charger give you the option of recharging via a USB port on your PC or your car's cigarette lighter.

The echo cancelation and background noise isolation features will ensure your callers can hear you loud and clear, rather than your surroundings. And, for those who have more than one Bluetooth phone they'd like to pair with a car kit, the Jabra SP200 can handle up to eight devices, operating one at a time. ●



Jabra SP200
In-Car Speakerphone
\$59.95
www.jabra.com

essentially no space in the car, while others have LCD screens with call info and are designed to be clearly visible to the driver at all times.

Lower-priced models often use batteries to power themselves. Others rely on solar power or derive their juice from the car itself via an adapter.

All you need to do to get your Bluetooth-compatible mobile phone working with a Bluetooth car kit is an established wireless connection. To do this, turn on the car kit, activate the Bluetooth function on your mobile phone, enter the security code, and look to make sure they've connected.

Note that some kits will only operate with a certain type or brand of cell phone, so be sure you find a Bluetooth kit that will work with your mobile phone.

Safety First, Convenience A Close Second

Even the most dexterous among us must admit that holding a cell phone while driving is somewhat distracting. No longer is this the case with a Bluetooth car kit. Not only is it hands-free, but it's, er, ear-free. That is, you don't need a headset—the car kit itself and the car stereo will take care of the audio situation. All you need to do is talk and listen.

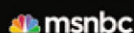
If you need to use your cell phone in the car, there's no safer way than with a car kit. Your phone's calling functions can be switched to voice control with many Bluetooth car kits (if your phone supports it), so you won't ever have to take your eyes off the road nor your hands off the wheel. Features of this type include voice dialing and redial capabilities.

Another motivating factor for investing in a Bluetooth car kit is the fact that several states have handset bans, requiring drivers to employ a hands-free device while chatting on the phone, and more states are considering similar legislation. **EG**



Need some quality alone time?

With the FLO TV™ Personal Television, you can watch live sports, hit shows, breaking news, and more – all at the touch of button. With a sleek design, a 3.5-inch touchscreen, integrated speakers and a built-in adjustable stand, the FLO TV™ Personal Television is the ultimate dedicated device for TV viewing on the go. This isn't about downtime. This is about me time.



\$249^{99*}

Includes 6 months of the FLO TV™ Service

*For a limited time, price includes a prepaid 6-month subscription to the FLO TV Service - a value of almost \$90.

See page 73 for more information.

*Taxes not included. Additional fees and charges may apply. Pricing and service subject to change at any time. Service must be activated between 11/1/09 and 3/31/10 and requires subscription. After six months of service, your credit card will be automatically charged the then-current monthly subscription rate. Special offer expires 3/31/10. Please review your FLO TV Customer Contract and Privacy Statement for additional terms and conditions that apply to this purchase. Six months of prepaid service subscription included with purchase of the FLO TV™ Personal Television is nonrefundable. All programming subject to change and blackout restrictions. Service not available everywhere. Go to www.flo.tv for coverage. © 2009 FLO TV Incorporated, a Qualcomm company. All rights reserved. FLO and FLO TV are trademarks of Qualcomm Incorporated. Image on screen is generic and not representative of the FLO TV service.

